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INSTRUCTION MANUAL

for the use of

"MEGGER"
INSULATION TESTERS

JAMES G. BIDDLE CO.
ELECTRICAL & SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS
1316 ARCH STREET · PHILADELPHIA 7, PENNA.

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Santa Barbara Unit.

INSTRUCTION MANUAL

for the use of

"MEGGER"

TRADE MARK REGISTERED U S PAT OFF.

INSULATION TESTERS

SECOND EDITION
MARCH 1948

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JAMES G. BIDDLE CO.

ELECTRICAL AND SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS

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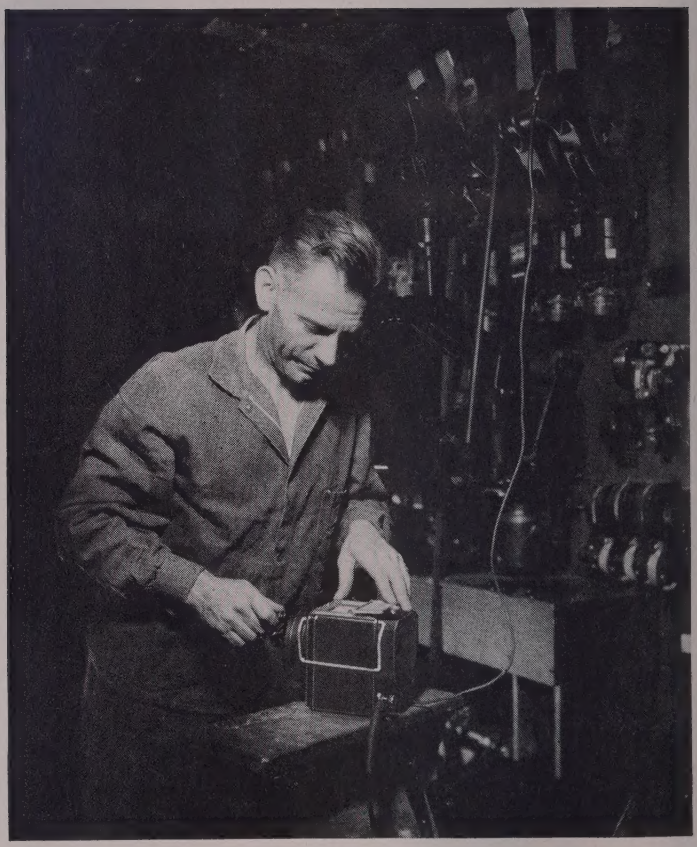

Photo by courtesy of the Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Co.

Testing Insulation Resistance

The testing instruments referred to in this Instruction Manual are members of our famous family of "Megger" Insulation Testers, Ground Testers and Ohmmeters.

The name "Megger" is an identifying trade mark, registered in the United States Patent Office.

JAMES G. BIDDLE CO.

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1

WHY TEST INSULATION RESISTANCE?

Insulation resistance tests help one to detect, diagnose and forestall trouble in electrical equipment.

The electrical maintenance man who uses a "Megger" Insulation Tester can isolate and analyze insulation defects and failures at time of trouble. Also he can look for and find insulation weaknesses *before* trouble occurs. A "Megger" Tester is as necessary to electrical good housekeeping and *preventive maintenance* as an X-ray machine is to a hospital. And it is "the ounce of prevention that is worth a pound of cure."

Preventive maintenance has been defined as a systematic series of operations performed periodically on equipment in order to prevent breakdown. It is essentially good housekeeping. And for *electrical* equipment, good housekeeping is largely a matter of dryness and cleanliness. Visual inspection, while necessary and helpful, cannot be relied upon with certainty to tell whether apparatus is clean and dry. Periodic insulation resistance tests meet this need.

This manual includes:

- Instructions for connecting and operating "Megger" Insulation Testing Instruments.
- Directions for making insulation resistance tests on various types of electrical equipment.
- Supplementary instructions and explanations to assist the man who makes the tests.
- Valuable material on how to interpret insulation resistance readings.

Suggestions:

If you have not used "Megger" Insulation Testers before: Read the entire Manual, especially Sections XI and XII on interpretation of readings, and those portions of Sections II, III, IV, V and VI which apply to the particular type of "Megger" instrument you are using and equipment which you are testing.

If you are an experienced but occasional user of "Megger" Insulation Testers: Look over the entire Manual, as it contains material—some of which has not been published elsewhere—that is essential to efficient use of "Megger" Instruments and maintenance of electrical equipment.

Insulation Resistance

As measured with a "Megger" Insulation Tester, insulation resistance is the resistance to the flow of direct current through or over the surface of the insulation in electrical equipment. The results are in ohms and megohms—millions of ohms.

The insulation resistance test is nondestructive, quite different from a high-voltage or "breakdown" test. It is made with direct-current rather than alternating, and is not a measure of dielectric strength as such. However, insulation resistance tests assist greatly in determining when and when not to apply high voltage.

In general, insulation resistance decreases with increased size of machine or length of cable, because there is more insulating material in contact with conductors and frame, ground or sheath.

Insulation resistance usually increases with higher voltage rating of apparatus, because of increased thickness of insulating material.

In many cases insulation resistance readings are relative or comparative, rather than quantitative. Since they are influenced by moisture and by dirt, they are reliable indicators of moisture, cleanliness and deterioration.

The Operation of the "Megger" Insulation Tester, and connections to equipment are quite simple. Therefore the operator is free to give full attention to just what is included in the circuit or equipment he is testing, and to what the readings mean.

II

HOW TO CONNECT AND OPERATE "MEGGER" INSULATION TESTING INSTRUMENTS

GENERAL DIRECTIONS FOR HAND-DRIVEN TYPES

[For Special Directions for the Various Types, see page 6.
For Motor-Driven Type, see page 7.
For Rectifier-Operated Types, see pages 9 and 10.]

CAUTION

See *Safety Precautions,* page 13.

Do not use a "Megger" Tester whose terminal or operating voltage is in excess of that which is safe to apply to the equipment to be tested.

1. Place the instrument on a firm and fairly level base. Avoid large masses of iron and strong magnetic fields. The pointer may appear to stand anywhere over the scale until the instrument is operated, because the "Megger" Ohmmeter has no control springs.

2. Selector Switch. If the instrument has a selector switch, set it to MEGOHMS ÷ 1.

For further use of selector switch, see page 28.

3. Check Infinity by turning crank at normal speed in clockwise direction. (Normal speed is indicated on the instrument.)

The pointer should move promptly to Infinity.

Important: This check is made with no connections to the testing terminals, and with Selector Switch (if any) set at MEGOHMS ÷ 1.

4. Check Zero by short-circuiting the testing terminals. Turn the crank slowly. The pointer should move promptly to Zero —or off the lower end of the scale in a high range instrument.

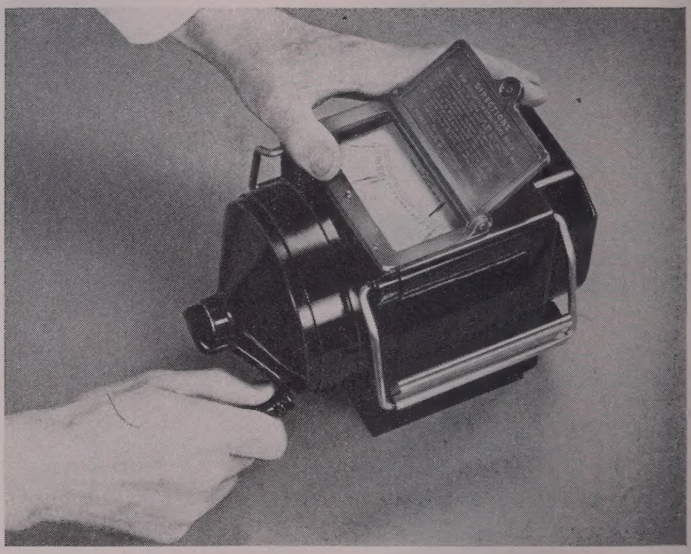


FIGURE 1. When using a hand-cranked "Megger" Instrument, hold the forearm of the cranking hand approximately parallel with the crankshaft. Turn the crank with a combined arm and wrist motion.

5. Use well-insulated testing leads having single-conductor stranded wire. See page 33.

6. Check testing leads. With leads connected to the instrument terminals and with opposite ends separated, turn the crank at normal speed. If the pointer indicates less than Infinity, there is a leak between the leads which must be removed before proceeding with tests. Touch together the test ends of the leads while turning the crank, to make certain—by a Zero reading—that the leads are not open-circuited.

7. Apparatus to be tested must not be live. It must be taken out of service and disconnected electrically from all other equipment. See *Safety Precautions,* page 13.

8. Connect leads to apparatus to be tested. See connection diagrams, pages 15 to 25.

For testing to Ground—connect from the line terminal to a conductor of the apparatus, and from the Earth terminal to frame of machine, sheath of cable or to a good ground.

For testing between two conductors—connect test leads to the two conductors.

See page 37 for use of Guard terminal.

9. Operate and read. Turn crank in clockwise direction at normal speed which is indicated on the instrument, and observe position of pointer over the scale—it shows the value of the insulation resistance under test. Take the reading while operating, and preferably at the end of 60 seconds time. See *Operating Time,* page 35.

10. See Supplementary Instructions, pages 26 and 33.

11. See Special Directions for the Various Types, page 6.

FIGURE 2. Using the "Bridge-Meg" type of "Megger" Insulation and Resistance Tester.

III

HOW TO CONNECT AND OPERATE "MEGGER" INSULATION TESTING INSTRUMENTS

SPECIAL DIRECTIONS FOR THE VARIOUS TYPES

1. Constant-Voltage Heavy-Duty Type—Hand-Driven

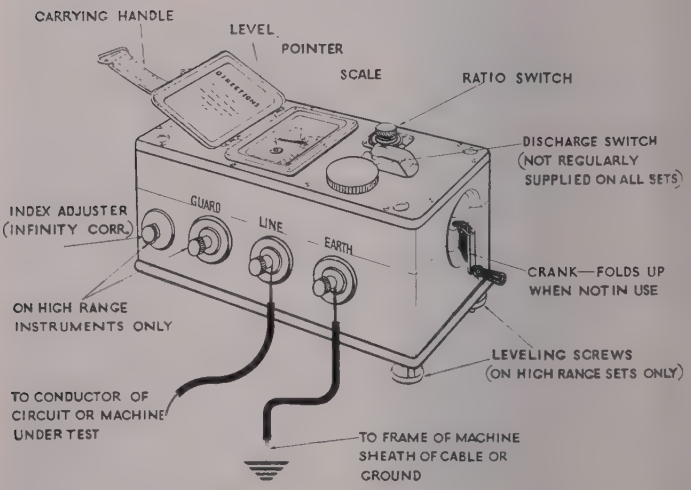


FIGURE 3

See **General Directions for Hand-Driven Types**, page 3.

For High Range Instruments: Level the instrument, centering the bubble in the spirit level which is set in the scale plate. When checking Infinity, turn the Index Adjuster one way

or the other, while cranking at full (slip) speed, until the pointer stands over the Infinity line.

Low Range Instruments do not have leveling facilities and Index Adjuster. Some older low range instruments of this type have variable-voltage hand generators, i.e., there is no slip clutch. Normal cranking speed is about 120 rpm, and further instructions are the same as for the variable-voltage "Meg" type, page 10.

When using multiple-voltage sets, make proper setting of voltage selector switch. See *Safety Precautions,* page 13.

For use of Guard terminal, see page 37.

2. Heavy-Duty Type—Motor Driven

Motor-driven "Megger" sets are used where a large number of tests are to be made at one location, and also where the time duration of the test must be continued for many minutes.

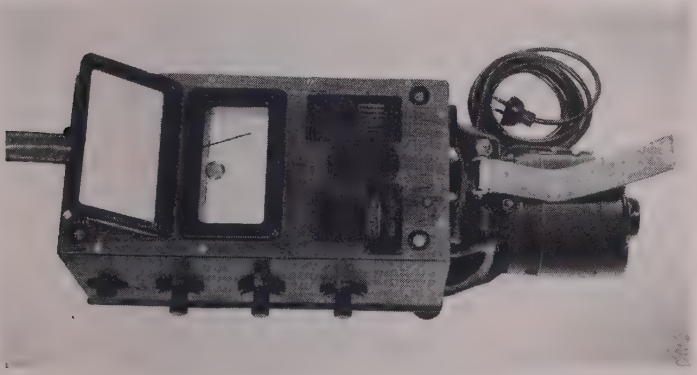


FIGURE 4. Motor-Driven "Megger" Insulation Tester ready for operation.

To Operate:

Make proper setting of voltage and selector switches.

Follow directions for hand-driven type, page 6, except that instead of turning the crank, connect to suitable supply voltage and run the driving motor.

NOTE: Present motor-driven models may be operated continuously—24 hours per day if necessary. Older models, with detachable motors, were for intermittent duty up to 30 minutes at one time.

To Remove the Motor and Drive by Hand

First, remove the four screws which hold the motor bracket to the instrument case, thus detaching the bracket and motor as a unit. The flexible coupling will remain attached to the motor shaft. (In older models the coupling must be detached.)

CAUTION: Rotate this shaft only in a counterclockwise direction when facing the instrument. If forced in the opposite direction, a pin will be sheared in the hand-cranked gear train.

Second, unfold the crank handle and the instrument is ready for hand operation.

Lubrication: Instruments supplied prior to April, 1947, require occasional oiling or greasing. Insert a *few* drops of best grade *light* oil in the hole or holes provided for the purpose on the top of the instrument. Some older instruments also have grease cups. Present models have permanently lubricated ball bearings and require no oiling.

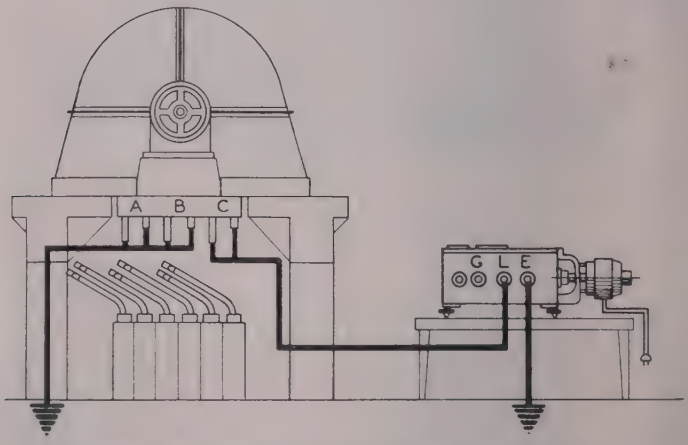


FIGURE 5. Connections for making a dielectric absorption measurement (see page 54) on one phase of a generator winding with the other phases grounded.

3. Constant-Voltage "Meg" Type*

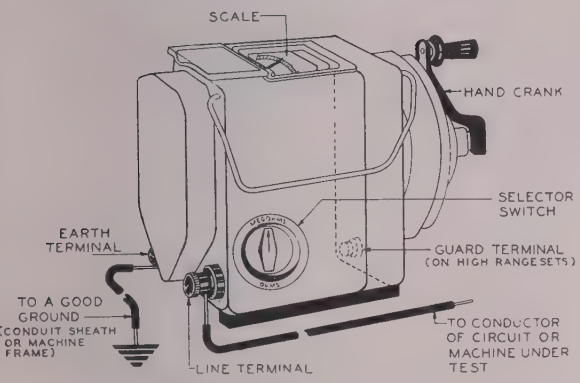

SCALE
HAND CRANK
SELECTOR SWITCH
EARTH TERMINAL
GUARD TERMINAL (ON HIGH RANGE SETS)
TO A GOOD GROUND (CONDUIT SHEATH OR MACHINE FRAME)
TO CONDUCTOR OF CIRCUIT OR MACHINE UNDER TEST
LINE TERMINAL

FIGURE 6

See General Directions for Hand-Driven Types, page 3.

Turn the crank at just above the speed at which the constant-voltage clutch is felt to slip, which is about 160 rpm.

For use of Guard terminal, see page 37.

4. "Meg" Type—Rectifier-Operated

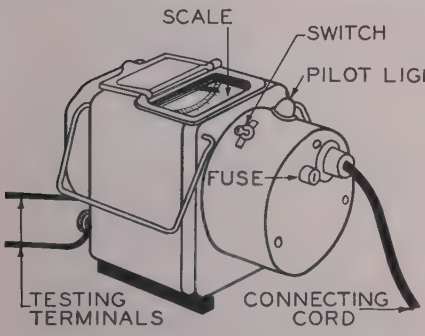


FIGURE 7

* Formerly designated *Constant-Pressure "Super-Meg" Type.*

See General Directions for Hand-Driven Types, page 3.

Connect cord to supply voltage and frequency shown on instruction label. The accuracy of the reading is unaffected by the exact value of the supply voltage—within ±20%. The reading *may* be affected momentarily by large and sudden changes in supply voltage, particularly at the upper end of the scale.

Do not operate the instrument any longer at one time than necessary. (Undue heating is to be avoided in order to conserve the life of the rectifier.)

5. Variable-Voltage* "Meg" Type

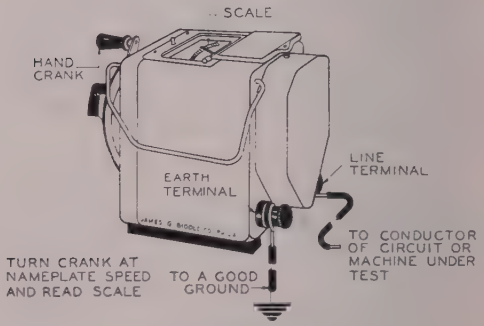


FIGURE 8

See General Directions for Hand-Driven Types, page 3.

Turn the crank at about 160 rpm, or a little less than 3 turns per second.

CAUTION: As there is no speed-limiting clutch in this instrument, a higher cranking speed will produce a higher voltage.

* Formerly designated as *Variable-Pressure "Meg" Type.*

6. Variable-Voltage Midget Type

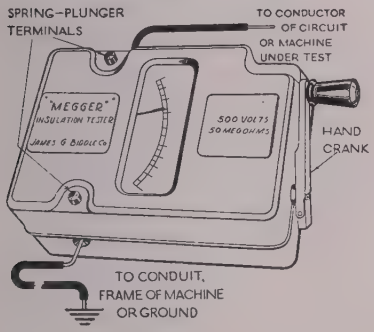

SPRING–PLUNGER TERMINALS
TO CONDUCTOR OF CIRCUIT OR MACHINE UNDER TEST
"MEGGER" INSULATION TESTER
JAMES G BIDDLE Co.
500 VOLTS 50 MEGOHMS
HAND CRANK
TO CONDUIT, FRAME OF MACHINE OR GROUND

FIGURE 9

See General Directions for Hand-Driven Types, page 3.

Turn the crank at about 160 rpm, or a little less than 3 turns per second.

CAUTION: As there is no speed-limiting clutch in this instrument, a higher cranking speed will produce a higher voltage.

7. Constant-Voltage "Bridge-Meg" Type

See special directions, page 77.

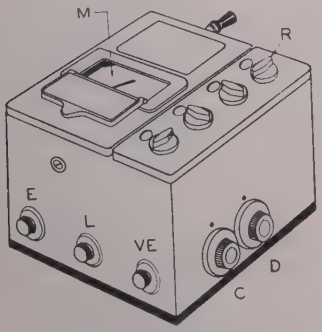


FIGURE 10. Constant Voltage "Bridge-Meg" type.

IV

PREPARATION OF APPARATUS FOR TEST

1. Take Out of Service

Shut down the apparatus. Open switches. De-energize. Disconnect from other equipment and circuits, including neutral or protective ground connections. See *Safety Precautions*, page 13.

2. Make Sure Just What Is Included in the Test

Inspect the installation very carefully to determine just what equipment is connected and will be included in the test, especially if it is difficult or expensive to disconnect associated apparatus and circuits. Pay particular attention to conductors that lead away from the installation. This is very important, because the more equipment that is included in a test, the lower the reading will be, and the true insulation resistance of the apparatus in question may be masked by that of the associated equipment.

It is always possible, of course, that the insulation resistance of the complete installation (without disconnecting everything) will be satisfactorily high, especially for a spot check. Or, it may be higher than the range of the "Megger" instrument in use, in which case nothing would be gained by separating the components, because the insulation resistance of each part would be still higher.

For an initial test, it may be necessary to separate the component parts, even though labor and expense are involved, and test each one separately. Also make a test of all the components connected together. With this information on record, it may not be necessary to separate the components on future tests unless unaccountably low readings are observed.

3. Discharge of Capacitance

It is very important—especially in large equipment—that electrostatic capacitance be discharged, both before and after an insulation resistance test. Separate windings should be connected together and grounded for as much as 10 to 15 minutes immediately before a test, depending on the size of the apparatus, in order that the readings shall not be affected by stored energy. The same applies to power and communication cable.

Discharging capacitance after a test is a wise safety precaution. "Megger" instruments are frequently equipped with Discharge Switches (see page 29) for this purpose.

4. Current Leakage at Switches, etc.

When apparatus is shut down for the insulation resistance test, make sure that the readings are not affected by leakage over or through switches or fuse blocks, etc. Such leakage may mask the true insulation resistance of the apparatus under test. See *Use of Guard Terminal*, page 37.

Or, what may be more serious, current from an energized line may leak into the apparatus and cause inconsistent readings, particularly if the live line is d-c. However, such leakage usually can be detected by watching the pointer of the "Megger" instrument at the moment the test leads are connected to the apparatus and before the instrument is operated. (Before making these observations, be sure that all electrostatic capacitance is discharged by short-circuiting or grounding the apparatus.)

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Observe all rules for safety when taking equipment out of service. Block out disconnect switches. Test for foreign or induced voltages. Apply workmen's grounds.

Remember that when working around high voltage equipment there is always a possibility of voltages being induced in apparatus under test or lines to which it is connected, because of proximity to energized high voltage equipment. Therefore, rather than removing a workmen's ground in order to make a test, it is more advisable to disconnect the apparatus, such as a transformer or circuit breaker, from the exposed bus or line, leaving the latter grounded. Use rubber gloves when connecting the test leads to the apparatus, and when operating the "Megger" instrument.

Apparatus Under Test Must Not Be Live

See page 12, on *Preparation of Apparatus for Test.*

If neutral or other ground connections have to be disconnected, make sure they are not carrying current at the time, and that when disconnected no other equipment will lack necessary protection.

Pay particular attention to conductors that lead away from the circuit being tested and make sure they have been properly disconnected from any source of voltage.

Shock Hazard from Test Voltage

Observe the voltage rating of the "Megger" instrument and regard it with appropriate caution. Large electrical equipment and cables usually have sufficient electrostatic capacitance to store up a dangerous amount of energy from the test current. Make sure this capacitance is discharged after the test and before handling the test leads.

Explosion and Fire Hazard

So far as is known, there is no fire hazard in the normal use of a "Megger" Insulation Tester. There is, however, a hazard when testing equipment located in inflammable or explosive atmospheres.

Slight sparking may be encountered: (1) When attaching the test leads to equipment in which the capacitance has not been completely discharged. (2) Arcing through or over faulty insulation during a test. (3) Discharge of capacitance following a test.

Suggestions

DO NOT USE THE INSTRUMENT IN AN EXPLOSIVE ATMOSPHERE.

For (1) and (3): Arrange permanently installed grounding facilities and test leads to a point where instrument connections can be made in a safe atmosphere.

For (2): Use low voltage testing instruments, or a series resistance. (See page 45.)

For (3): Do not disconnect the test leads for at least 30 to 60 seconds following a test, so as to allow time for capacitance discharge.

V

CONNECTIONS FOR TESTING INSULATION RESISTANCE OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

The following diagrams show how to connect a "Megger" Insulation Tester to various types of electrical equipment. The diagrams also show in principle how equipment must be disconnected from other circuits before the instrument is connected.

These illustrations are typical and will serve as guides for testing insulation resistance of practically all types of apparatus and conductors.

Before proceeding with tests, read the article on "Preparation of Apparatus for Test," page 12.

REMEMBER! ***The "Megger" Insulation Resistance Tester measures whatever resistance is connected between its terminals. This may include series or parallel leakage paths through insulation or over its surface.***

1. A-C Motors and Starting Equipment

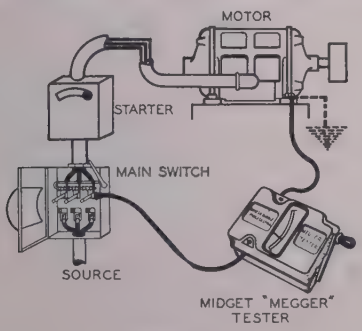


FIGURE 11

Connections for testing the insulation resistance of a motor, starting equipment and connecting lines, *in parallel.* Note that the starter switch is in the "on" position for the test. It is preferable always to disconnect the component parts and test them separately in order to determine where weaknesses exist.

2. D-C Generators and Motors

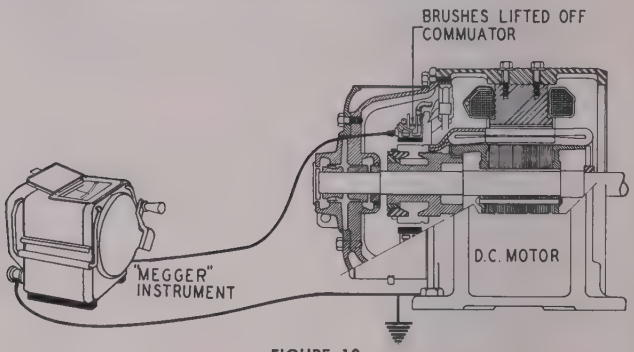


FIGURE 12

With the brushes raised—as indicated—the brush rigging and field coils can be tested separately from the armature. Likewise the armature can be tested by itself. With the brushes lowered, the test will be that of brush rigging, field coils and armature combined.

3. Wiring Installation

Connections for testing to ground each circuit separately, working from the distribution panel.

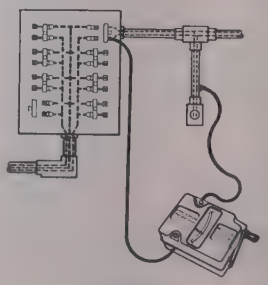


FIGURE 13

Connections at the main power board, from which point the entire system can be tested to ground at one time, providing all switches in the distribution panel are closed.

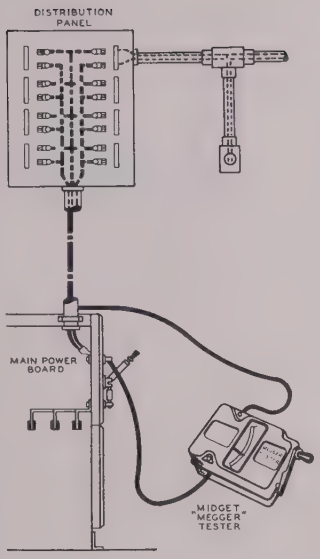


FIGURE 14

4. Appliances, Meters, Instruments and Miscellaneous Electrical Apparatus

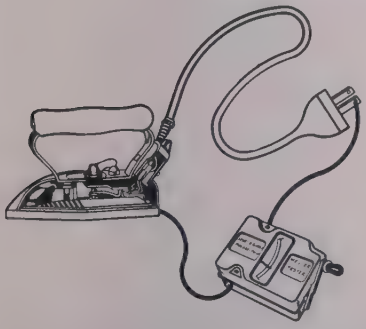


FIGURE 15

Connections for testing an appliance. The test is made between the conductor, such as heating unit, motor, etc., and exposed metal parts. The apparatus must be disconnected from any source of power and placed preferably on some insulating material.

5. Control, Signaling and Communication Cables

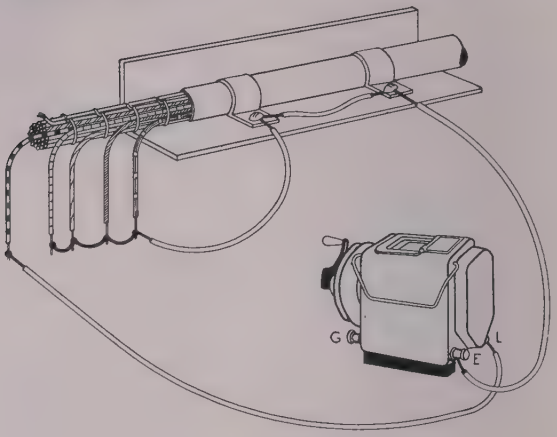


FIGURE 16

Connections for testing insulation resistance of one wire in a multi-conductor cable against all other wires and sheath connected together.

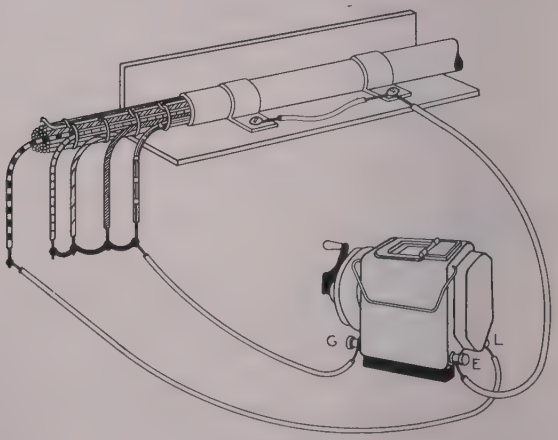


FIGURE 17

Connections for testing insulation resistance between one

wire and ground, without being affected by leakage to other wires. Note use of Guard connection.

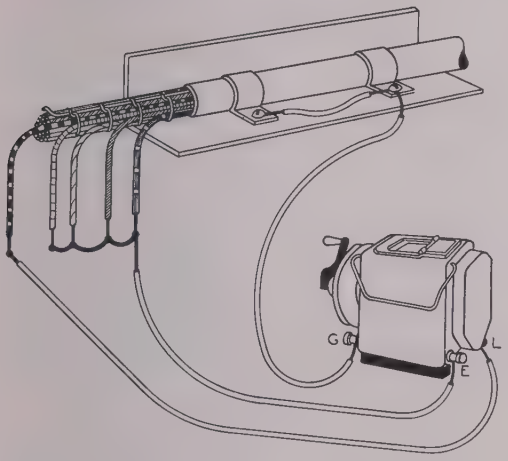


FIGURE 18

Connections for testing insulation resistance between one wire and all other wires connected, without being affected by leakage to ground.

Note that the Guard is connected to ground. This is technically irregular, but may be done effectively if the instrument and the operator are *thoroughly* insulated from ground.

6. Power Cables

Connections for testing the insulation resistance of a power cable. When testing cable, it is usually best to disconnect at

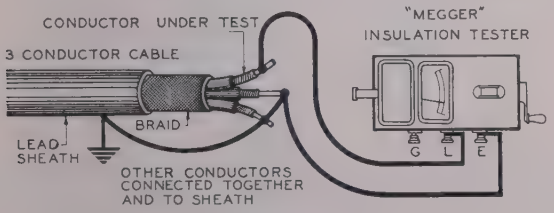


FIGURE 19

both ends in order to test the cable by itself, and to avoid error due to leakage across or through switchboards or panelboards.

See also *Use of Guard Terminal,* page 37.

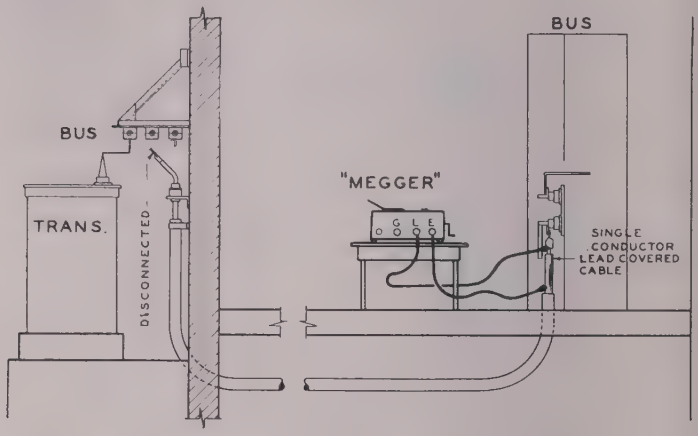


FIGURE 20. Testing a Single-Conductor Cable.

7. Bushings, Potheads and Insulators

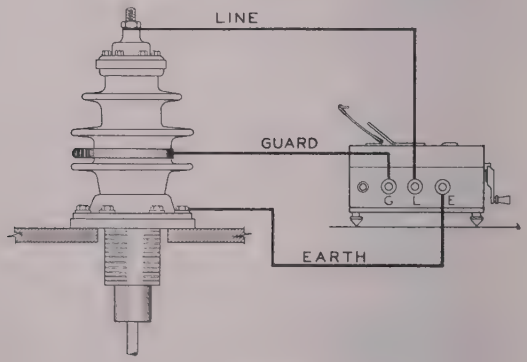


FIGURE 21

The illustration shows use of spring collar as a Guard connection to eliminate the effects of surface leakage. The device under test *must* be disconnected from *all* other equipment.

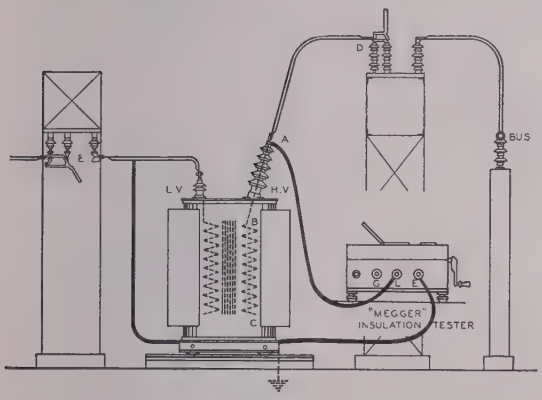


FIGURE 22

Connections for testing insulation resistance of a transformer high voltage winding and bushings, and the high tension disconnect switch—*in parallel,* with reference to the low voltage winding and ground. Note that the low voltage winding is grounded for this test.

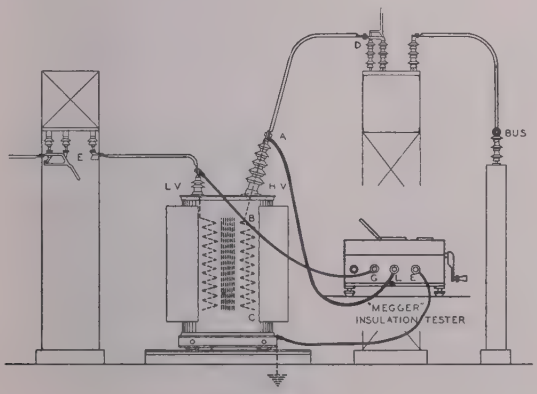


FIGURE 23

Same as Figure 22 but without being affected by leakage between the high and low voltage windings. Note use of Guard connection.

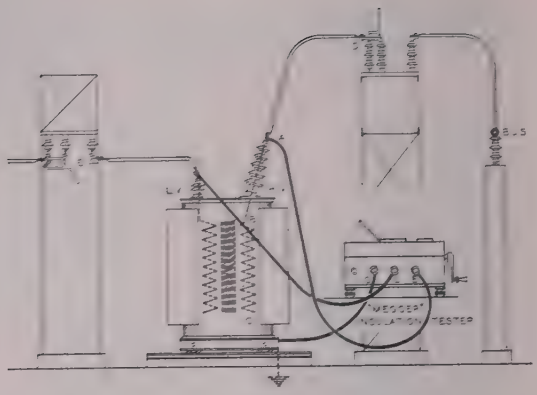


FIGURE 24

Connections for testing insulation resistance between high and low voltage windings without being affected by leakage to ground.

Note that the Guard is connected to ground. This is technically irregular, but may be done effectively if the instrument and the operator are *thoroughly* insulated from ground.

9. A-C Generators

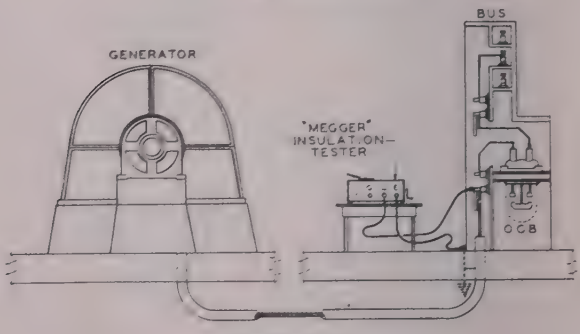


FIGURE 25

With this connection, the insulation resistance will be that of the generator stator winding and connecting cable combined. To test either the stator winding or the cable itself, the cable must be disconnected at the machine.

10. Outdoor Oil Circuit Breakers

The four illustrations (Figs. 26, 27, 28 and 29) show the usual methods of testing bushings and associated parts of an outdoor oil circuit breaker, and the accompanying table indicates the test procedure by steps.

If the test values are below 10,000 megohms in any of the 4 steps, the tank should be lowered or drained so that the excessive losses can be isolated by further tests and investigations. See page 64.

Test	Breaker Position	Bushing Energized	Bushing Guarded	Bushing Grounded	Part Measured
1	open	1 (2 to guard)	1	.....	Bushing 1
2	open	1	1	2	Bushing 1 in parallel with cross member
3	open	1 & 2	1 & 2	.....	Bushing 1 & 2 in parallel
4	closed	1 & 2	1 & 2	.....	Bushing 1 & 2 in parallel with lift rod

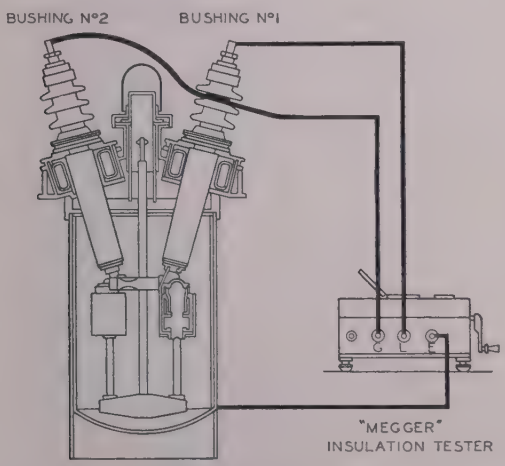


FIGURE 26. Step 1.

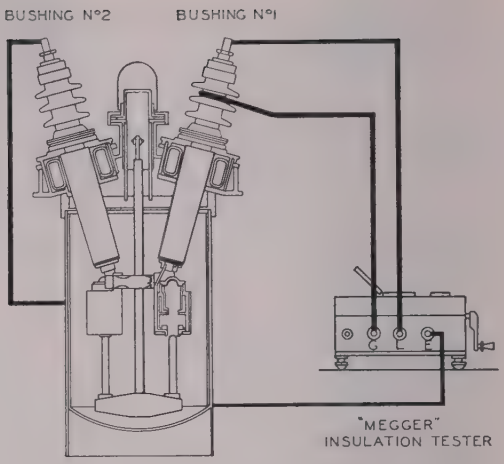


FIGURE 27. Step 2.

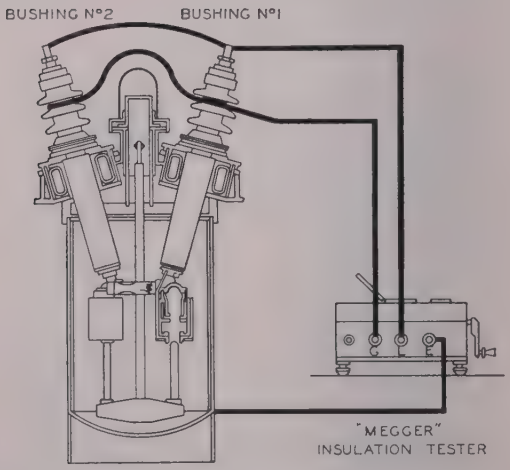


FIGURE 28. Step 3.

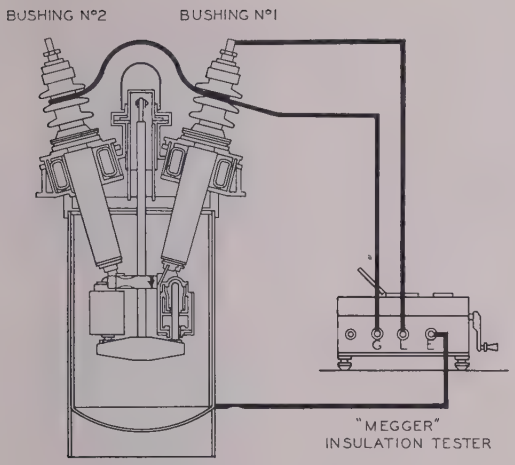


FIGURE 29. Step 4.

VI

SUPPLEMENTARY INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING "MEGGER" INSULATION TESTERS

[Information on the selection of type and rating of a new "Megger" Insulation Tester will be found in our descriptive literature.]

Rating of Instrument

Voltage: Do not use a "Megger" Tester whose terminal voltage is in excess of that which is safe to apply to the equipment to be tested. See Note. Compare the voltage as shown on the instrument with that indicated on the nameplate of the equipment.

When using variable-voltage "Meg" type and variable-voltage midget type instruments, remember that there is no speed-limiting clutch and a cranking speed higher than normal will generate a higher voltage.

See *Safety Precautions,* page 13.

NOTE: The following voltage ratings are suggested as "safe" or normally permissible:

"Megger" Instrument Voltage Rating	Equipment to Be Tested (a-c or d-c) Rated to Operate at	
100 and 250 volts	Up to 100 volts	Includes some types of signaling and control equipment
400 volts		Regularly used on telephone cable
500 volts	100 volts and above	
1000 volts	400 volts and above	
2500 volts	1000 volts and above	

In general, these suggested values represent a reasonably safe margin of test voltage above operating voltage. There is ordinarily a considerable margin of safety built into the equipment and the values recommended impose only a mild overvoltage for equipment rated up to the instrument test voltages specified. Some protection to the equipment under test is afforded by the ohmmeter ballast resistance (see Figure 57) by which full voltage of the "Megger" instrument is not impressed unless the insulation resistance of the equipment is in the upper range of the instrument scale. See *Voltage Characteristics,* page 74. Also see *Tests When Drying Out Wet Apparatus,* page 42.

Range: If a selection is available, choose a range of "Megger" instrument that will give a reading of insulation resistance near the middle of the scale, or a little higher. When a reading is Infinity, record it as, for example, "100+ megohms," using the highest numerical scale reading followed by a + sign. Note also the voltage rating of the instrument used.

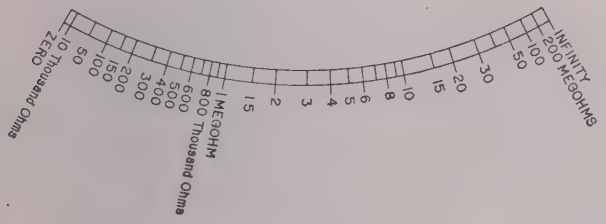


FIGURE 30. Facsimile scale of a 500-volt, 200-megohm instrument.

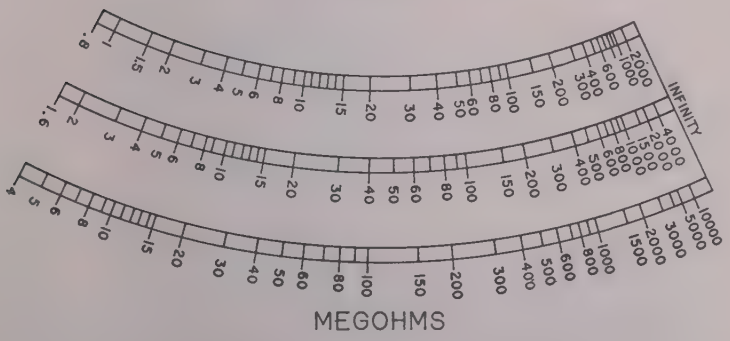


FIGURE 31. Facsimile scales of a multi-voltage, high range instrument.

Selector Switches

Voltage Selector—On heavy duty type only: Set switch to desired voltage (and corresponding range). Figure 32.

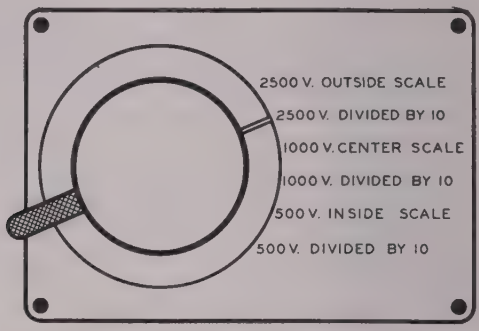


FIGURE 32. Range and Voltage Selector Switch on a high range instrument. See facsimile scales in Figure 31.

Megohm Scale, Divide by 10 and Divide by 100: Set switch to the ratio (÷ 1, ÷ 10 or ÷ 100) that brings the reading as near as possible to the middle of the scale. Record the numerical scale reading and the position of the ratio switch. Figures 32 and 33.

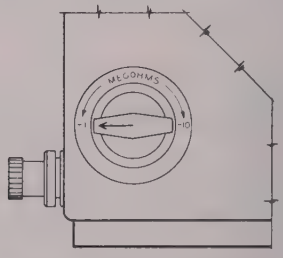


FIGURE 33. Megohm Scale with Divide-by-10 (The A Switch).

Megohm and Ohm Scale: Set switch to MEGOHMS for insulation resistance tests. Connect testing leads to the Earth and Line terminals, and read the Megohm Scale. Figure 34.

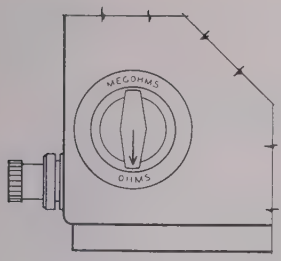


FIGURE 34. Megohm and Ohm Scale (The R Switch).

Set switch to OHMS for measuring conductor resistance. Connect the resistance to the Guard and Ohms terminals. Operate the instrument in the same manner as if measuring insulation resistance, but read the Ohm Scale.

Megohms and Capacitance Discharge for constant-voltage "Meg" type: First set switch to TEST. (See Figure 35.) As soon as the test is completed, turn switch to DISCHARGE. Leave switch on DISCHARGE for at least 30 seconds.

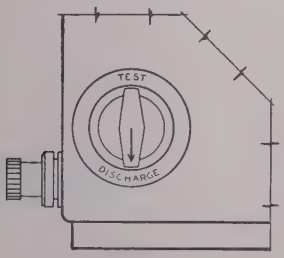


FIGURE 35. Megohm and Capacitance Discharge Switch (The K Switch).

Capacitance Discharge for heavy duty type: The spring type switch, Figure 3, is normally in the DISCHARGE position. When making a test, depress the switch head. When test is completed, release switch to DISCHARGE position. With the rotary type switch, simply turn to TEST or DISCHARGE.

Combination Switches for "Meg" type. Follow instructions as in Figures 36, 37 and 38.

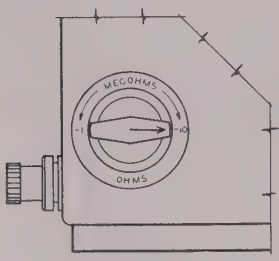
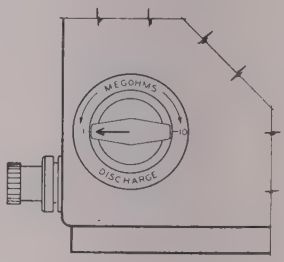


FIGURE 36. Megohm Scale with Divide-by-10 and Ohm Scale (The AR Switch).

FIGURE 37. Megohm Scale with Divide-by-10 and Discharge Switch (The AK Switch).



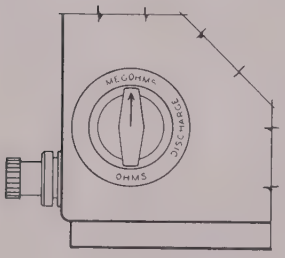


FIGURE 38. Megohm Scale, Ohm Scale and Discharge Switch (The RK Switch).

Checking the Ohmmeter

Checking the Infinity and Zero positions, as per items 3 and 4 in *General Directions,* page 3, will suffice for daily use of a "Megger" instrument. When instruments are correct at these values, they are usually correct throughout the range.

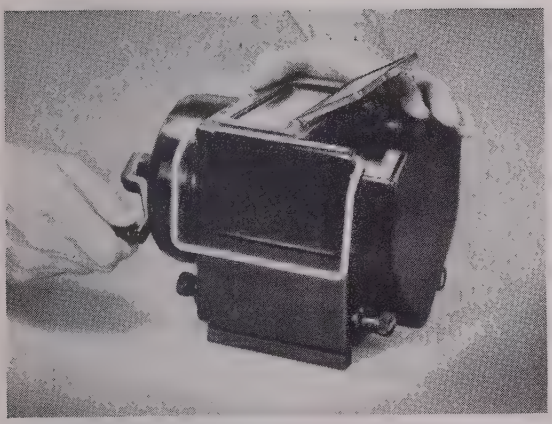


FIGURE 39. Checking Infinity—with no leads connected.

Further check can be made by using precision wire-wound resistors.

The testing terminals of a "Megger" instrument can be short-circuited while the instrument is in operation without excessive flow of current. However, if frequently repeated, there is risk of bending the pointer.

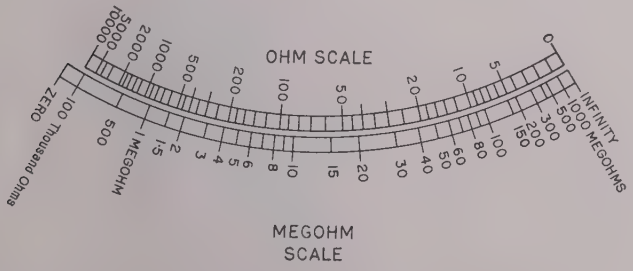


FIGURE 40. Facsimile scale of a 500-volt "Meg" type instrument, 0 to 1000 megohms (with or without Divide-by-10) and Ohm Scale.

Checking Voltage

It is seldom necessary to check the voltage of a "Megger" instrument because of the allowable variations in voltage referred to on page 73.

To measure the terminal (Earth to Line) voltage, use an electrostatic voltmeter. Do not try to use a low resistance voltmeter because the ballast resistance *R'* in Figure 57 will cause the voltmeter to read in error.

An approximation of the generator voltage can be made by using a voltmeter of known high resistance connected to the Earth and Guard terminals.

Lubrication and Repairs

In hand-driven "Megger" Insulation Testers, all bearings are packed with lubricant and ordinarily do not need attention for a long time. Directions for lubricating motor-driven "Megger" instruments are given on page 8. After several years of normal use, instruments should be returned to us for inspection and such servicing as may be necessary.

We repair, rebuild and service all types of our "Megger" instruments, and strongly advise that they be sent to us for the purpose. A report of condition, together with estimate of cost, will be submitted upon request. Reconditioned instruments are returned to the user in condition practically equal to new.

Instruments for repair or servicing should be packed carefully—surrounded by at least three to four inches of excelsior—and forwarded, properly insured and with shipping charges prepaid, to James G. Biddle Co., 1316 Arch Street, Philadelphia 7, Pa., together with full information as to the owner and what is desired.

Note: When writing in regard to instruments for servicing or repair, please give serial number.

VII

SUPPLEMENTARY INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING "MEGGER" INSULATION TESTERS

Testing Leads

Inferior or defective testing leads will cause erroneous and misleading results of insulation resistance tests. Take care in this respect.

Uninsulated Leads

To avoid error due to the insulation of leads, place the "Megger" instrument close to the ungrounded terminal or conductor of the apparatus under test and connect a short piece of light bare wire directly from the Line terminal of the instrument to the apparatus. If the Guard terminal is used, it may be treated similarly. No. 18 or 20 gauge solid wire will suffice. Support the lead only by its connections to the instrument and the apparatus.

With this method of connecting from the Line terminal, the quality of the insulation, if any, of the Earth or Ground lead becomes unimportant.

Insulated Leads

Where dependence is placed on the insulation of leads they must be durable and of the best quality insulating material. Oil resistant, synthetic, rubber-insulated, single-conductor No. 14 stranded wire is recommended. The outer jacket should be smooth, with no outer braid. Lugs should be fitted for attaching to the instrument terminals, and stout spring clips are recommended for connecting to the apparatus or circuit under test. Any convenient length of lead may be used. Joints are to be avoided.

After connecting the leads to the instrument, and just before connecting them to the apparatus, *make sure there is no leak from lead to lead.* Do this by operating the instrument, which should read Infinity. Do not correct slight lead leakage by attempting to reset the Infinity Adjuster on a high range instrument. Then touch the test ends of the leads together to make sure they are not disconnected or broken.

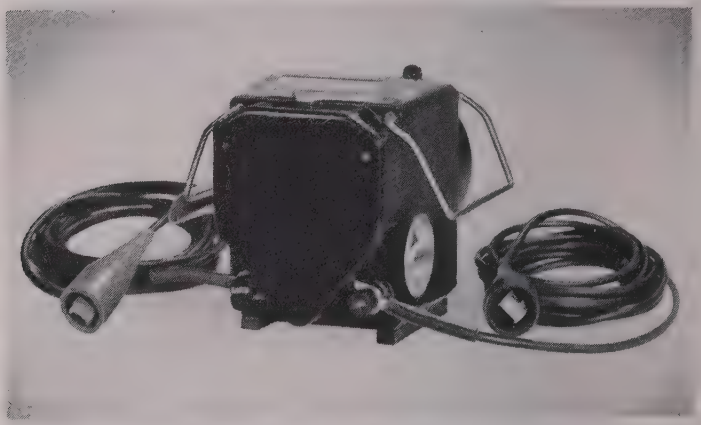


FIGURE 41. "Megger" Insulation Tester with one pair 12-foot heavy duty insulated testing leads.

Effect of Capacitance

Capacitance in apparatus under test must be charged up to the rated d-c voltage of the "Megger" Insulation Tester, and maintained for 30 to 60 seconds before a final reading is taken. If the capacitance exceeds approximately .2 mf., a *constant* source of test voltage is necessary. A *constant-voltage* type of instrument, or a motor-driven or rectifier-operated type, should be used. Make sure that capacitance is discharged—by short-circuiting and grounding the apparatus before connecting the test leads. See *Discharge of Capacitance,* page 13.

NOTE: Capacitance causes the pointer to swing towards Zero while the "Megger" instrument is being brought up to speed; and to swing off scale beyond Infinity when the generator is slowing down. This is simply the charge current flowing respectively into and out of the capacitance and through the deflecting coil of the ohmmeter. (See Figure 57.)

Capacitance effects are most noticeable in large generators, in power and communication cable more than a few hundred feet in length, and in capacitors.

Operating Time

A very important consideration in making insulation resistance tests is the time required for the reading of insulation resistance to reach a maximum. The time required to charge capacitance is very short—usually no more than a few seconds—and that which causes further delay in reaching full "charge" is a dielectric absorption effect. It may be a matter of minutes or even hours, for this electrification time to be completed, and for the pointer to reach an absolute maximum.

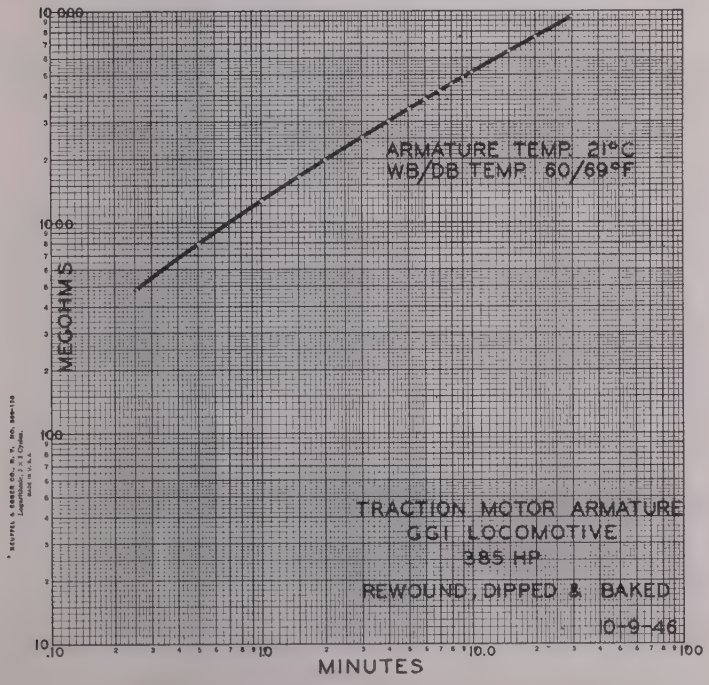


FIGURE 42. Dielectric Absorption test on a traction motor armature for 30 minutes. This is a typical curve for a clean, dry, healthy unit tested under conditions of low absolute humidity.

Short-Time Readings

For short-time readings of insulation resistance, operate the instrument for a definite length of time—either 30 seconds or 1 minute, and read at the end of that time. Continue cranking steadily at slip speed until the reading has been taken. Make future tests with the same length of operating time.

Dielectric Absorption Method *(see page 54)*

When using a hand-cranked instrument, operate continuously for 1 minute. Take a reading at the end of the first 30 seconds and another reading at the end of the minute.

When using a motor-driven or rectifier-operated instrument, the time intervals are usually 1 minute and 10 minutes from the time the testing voltage is applied. Or, dielectric absorption curves may be taken over a period of 10 to 30 minutes, or longer.

VIII

USE OF THE GUARD TERMINAL

All "Megger" Insulation Testers having ranges of 1000 megohms and higher are equipped with Guard terminals. The Guard terminal is used for the following purposes:

A—To eliminate the effects of surface leakage.

B—To eliminate the effects of adjacent leakage.

C—To measure the true resistance of an insulating member or material.

D—As a source of direct current.

To Eliminate the Effects of Surface Leakage

This connection is used where one needs to know whether a low reading is caused by conduction through the insulation or simply by surface leakage at an exposed terminal.

The use of the Guard terminal is not ordinarily practicable on equipment such as motors and generators where there are many surface leakage paths.

The Guard *may* be ineffective if the Line and Earth leads are reversed.

Procedure

Follow the principle shown in Figure 43.

Wrap a bare piece of wire around the exposed insulation of the conductor and connect to the Guard terminal. If necessary, cut away lead sheath or braid covering and, if possible, allow several inches between the Guard wire and both lead sheath and conductor. The Guard wire must not touch the conductor, lead sheath, or ground.

Connect Line and Earth leads in the usual way and operate the instrument. If surface leakage is present, the reading will be *higher* when the Guard is connected than when disconnected.

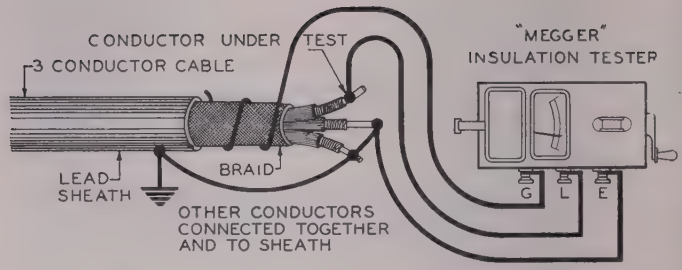


FIGURE 43. Showing how to use the Guard terminal to eliminate the effects of surface leakage across exposed insulation at one end of a cable. See also Figs. 17, 18, and 45.

When testing cable or wiring installations in place, it may be neither possible nor practicable to guard more than the exposed end of the insulated conductor at the location where the test is being made. Some reliance must be placed on keeping exposed ends and surfaces clean.

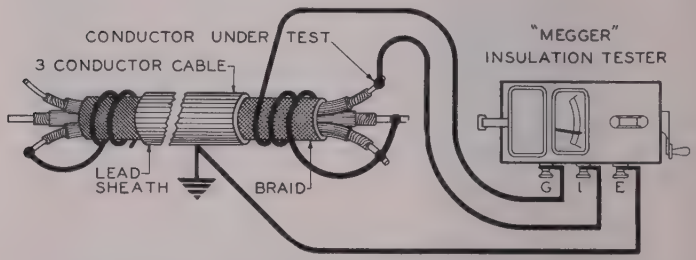


FIGURE 44. Showing how to use the Guard terminal to eliminate the effects of surface leakage across exposed insulation at *both ends* of a cable when a spare conductor in the cable is available for completing the Guard connection.

When another conductor is available, in addition to the one being tested, it can be used to make the Guard connection at the far end of the conductor under test. See Figure 44.

To Eliminate Effects of Adjacent Leakage

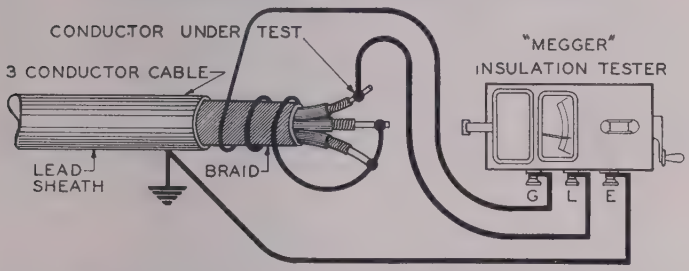


FIGURE 45. Showing use of the Guard connection to eliminate the effect of leakage to ground, as in Figure 43, and also the effect of leakage to adjacent conductors. Note that the Guard wire is wrapped around the exposed insulation and also is connected to the adjacent conductors.

Do not confuse this diagram with Figure 43, where the Guard wire goes only to the exposed insulation, and the adjacent conductors are grounded.

It is frequently important to know the insulation resistance between a conductor and ground without being affected by parallel leakage to an adjacent conductor. Similarly, one may need to know the leakage between conductors without being affected by leakage to ground. These points are illustrated in Figures 17, 18 and 45 on testing wires in cables or bundles.

To Measure the True Resistance of an Insulating Member or Material

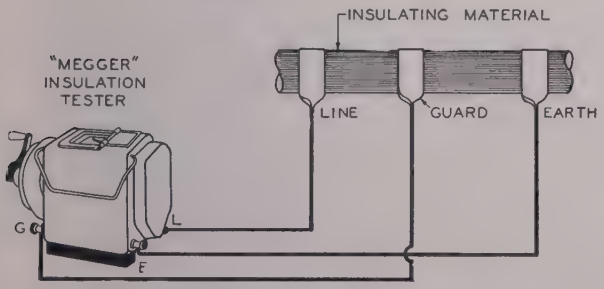


FIGURE 46. To eliminate the effect of surface leakage in measuring the true resistance of an insulating member, such as a lift rod in a circuit breaker.

Use tin foil or other suitable material for electrodes.

Make sure the Guard electrode is placed between the Earth and Line electrodes and is bound all the way around the rod. Support the rod on some highly insulating material such as edges of glass or porcelain. Test with and without the Guard connection to determine whether there is surface leakage. If there is surface leakage, the reading with the Guard connected will be higher.

As a Source of Direct Current

With connections from the Earth and Guard terminals, the "Megger" Insulation Tester serves as a convenient source of d-c voltage. This is used:

For Dielectric Tests and for breaking down high resistance faults.

For Operating Wheatstone Bridges at high potential. This is frequently done in telephone work for locating high resistance faults. The instrument is substituted for the Wheatstone Bridge battery, with a corresponding increase in sensitivity of the Bridge.

The current which may be drawn from the Earth-Guard connection is limited only by the resistance of the generator armature,* and care must be taken not to draw an overload continuously.

In a hand-cranked instrument, an overload or a breakdown in a dielectric test is immediately noticed by the load on the hand crank. Cranking must not be forced under load.

When using the Earth-Guard connection, the ohmmeter will read Infinity irrespective of the current which the generator may be delivering. The reason for this should be clear from the diagram, Figure 57. With the Earth-Guard connection, no current flows through the ohmmeter deflecting coil *A*.

The rectifier-operated "Meg" type instrument has the ballast resistances in series with the Earth terminal (instead of the Line terminal) as shown in Figure 61, so that nothing is gained by using the Earth-Guard over the Earth-Line connection with this instrument.

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* An exception is the 10,000-megohm, 2500-volt, heavy duty set in which a protective resistance is included in the Guard circuit. In all new heavy-duty sets, protective resistances are included.

Use of Guard Terminal on Motor-Driven Sets

Motor-driven "Megger" sets as now supplied have a protective resistance in the guard circuit sufficient to limit the Earth-Guard current to a safe value in event of a short circuit across the Earth and Guard terminals. In order to detect a short circuit during the test, a milliammeter having about 50 milliamperes full scale may be connected externally in series with the Guard terminal.

Older motor-driven sets, supplied prior to Sept., 1947, do not have guard circuit protective resistances. To avoid damaging these instruments from an Earth to Guard short circuit, a resistance of 10,000 ohms should be connected in series with the Earth-Guard connection.

Where the resistance of the circuit under test is high, i.e., above the middle of the scale of instrument being used, approximately full rated voltage will be obtained when using the Earth and Line connections. In this case no dangerous overload will occur under any conditions because of the protective ballast resistance within the instrument. See Figure 57.

IX

TESTS WHEN DRYING OUT WET APPARATUS

Reconditioning Wet Apparatus

The bad effects of excessive moisture in insulating material, particularly when localized, are numerous. The effect most likely to result in failure in the early stages of exposure is that of low resistance paths which may develop either through or over the surface of the insulation. The likelihood of failure from this cause is increased by the presence of dirt and other foreign matter, and may occur in either organic or inorganic insulating material.

If moisture has been deposited on clean insulation only superficially, then the heat resulting from the normal operating temperature of the equipment may remove it before failure occurs. However, the normal operating heat of at least some parts of the equipment is sometimes insufficient to drive out moisture that has penetrated through surface defects.

If moisture is allowed to remain in insulation, it usually—in time—causes corrosion of metal conducting parts, aggravated by the presence of chemicals and electric potential, thus increasing the danger of failure.

In addition to apparatus which may be exposed to moist atmosphere, or wet with fresh water, there may be occasions when it becomes necessary to rehabilitate equipment that has been subjected to salt water. In such case, clean fresh water must be used to remove all traces of salt before drying of the apparatus is attempted. Any evidence of oil or grease on the insulation should also be removed by using a volatile solvent such as carbon tetrachloride.

Then the apparatus must be dried out before electrical potential is applied. Numerous methods and various temperatures for drying out electrical equipment are used, including

forced hot air, ovens, circulating electric current through the conductors, or combinations of these methods. Local conditions and facilities, manufacturer's recommendations, and the type of equipment involved, dictate the method used.

Test Procedure

If possible, secure records of previous insulation resistance tests on the apparatus.

Make short-time tests and dielectric absorption tests (see page 36) for comparison to help decide whether drying is necessary. If present readings are at all comparable with previous tests made at or corrected to the same temperature, a drying-out run *may* not be necessary.

If a Drying-Out Run Is Decided Upon

(1) Prepare the apparatus for drying as per manufacturer's or company's directions.

(2) Connect the "Megger" Insulation Tester as directed in II and III, pages 3 and 6.

(3) Arrange the instrument and testing leads and one or more thermometers so that frequent readings can be made quickly and easily as drying progresses.

If external heat is applied to the apparatus, leave the "Megger" Tester connected for the duration of the heat run.

If apparatus is to be heated by circulating current in the windings, arrange to disconnect the instrument leads before the circulating current is applied. Disconnect circulating current before connecting the instrument leads to make an insulation resistance test.

(4) Insulation resistance readings should be recorded and plotted on cross-section paper while the drying process is going on.

(5) The insulation resistance readings should fall during the first part of the run as the temperature increases, as shown in Figure 47.

(6) The drying-out run should be continued until both the insulation resistance and the temperature have become constant and remain so for several hours.*

* It must be remembered that the effectiveness and drying time will be governed by the ultimate drying temperature and atmospheric pressure used for the drying-out run.

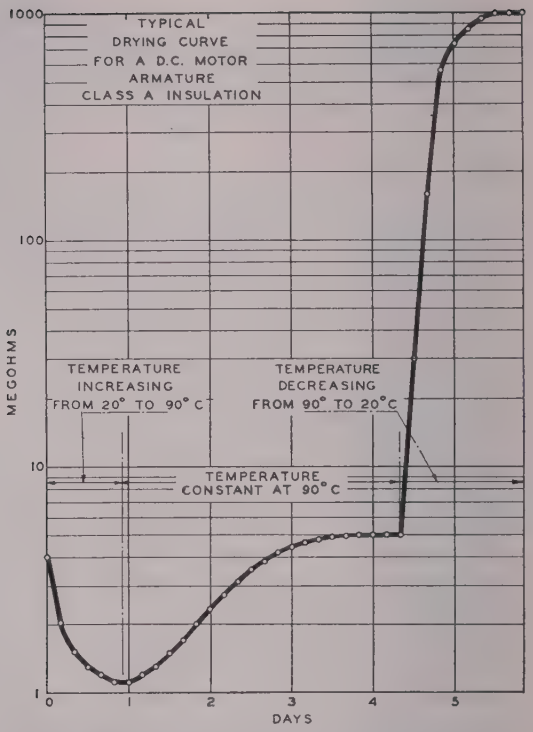

FIGURE 47. Typical drying curve for a d-c motor armature where 1-minute readings of insulation resistance are taken every four hours.

During the first part of the run, the insulation resistance decreases because of increase in temperature and because moisture is being driven out. Then the insulation resistance rises at constant temperature, owing to further drying. Finally the insulation resistance rises to a high value owing to decrease in temperature.

(7) When apparatus is wet it is susceptible to voltage breakdown. Therefore it is desirable, if possible, to use a low voltage (e.g. 100-volt) "Megger" Tester at least in the early stages of a drying-out run, depending on the voltage rating of the apparatus under test.

(8) If a low voltage instrument is not available, either operate the instrument at slow speed, or place a 5-megohm protective resistor in series with it when making tests, until the drying is well under way.

The following table shows the approximate voltage across the apparatus under test when the latter has an insulation resistance of 1 megohm, and with a 5-megohm protective resistor connected between the Line terminal and the apparatus:

Rated Voltage of "Megger" Tester	Volts Across Apparatus	Reading of Instrument When Insulation Resistance of Apparatus = 1 Megohm
500	85	6 megohms
1000	170	6 megohms
2500	425	6 megohms

X

TEMPERATURE CORRECTION

The temperature coefficient of electrical insulation is negative and numerically large, which means that insulation resistance decreases greatly with increase in temperature.

Because this coefficient is large, it is necessary to correct the readings of insulation resistance to a base temperature, such as 20C, in order to make reliable comparisons of readings between one time and another.

The temperature characteristics of insulating materials are also greatly affected by the kind of material, the combination of materials and the presence of moisture.

This means that various insulating materials and various types of electrical apparatus have their own temperature correction factors. Factors for motors and transformers are given in the accompanying data.

Procedure

Record the *as found* readings of insulation resistance.

Make corrections for temperature, using correction factors from Figure 48.

Record the corrected values.

When Temperature Correction May Be Omitted

(1) When a large number of units, such as motors, are to be tested for comparison, and all are at room temperature.

(2) When periodic tests are made on equipment always at room temperature.

For further information on Temperature-Resistance Characteristics of Insulating Materials, see *Technical Bulletin 21T4*.

TEMPERATURE CORRECTION FACTORS

Temp.		Rotating Equip.		Trans-formers	Cables							
°C	°F	Class A	Class B	Oil-Filled	Code Natural	Code GR-S	Performance Natural	Heat Resist. Natural	Heat Resist. & Perform. GR-S	Ozone Resist. Natural GR-S	Varnished Cambric	Impregnated Paper
0	32	.21	.40	.25	.25	.12	.47	.42	.22	.14	.10	.28
5	41	.31	.50	.36	.40	.23	.60	.56	.37	.26	.20	.43
10	50	.45	.63	.50	.61	.46	.76	.73	.58	.49	.43	.64
15.6	60	.71	.81	.74	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
20	68	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.47	1.83	1.24	1.28	1.53	1.75	1.94	1.43
25	77	1.48	1.25	1.40	2.27	3.67	1.58	1.68	2.48	3.29	4.08	2.17
30	86	2.20	1.58	1.98	3.52	7.32	2.00	2.24	4.03	6.20	8.62	3.20
35	95	3.24	2.00	2.80	5.45	14.60	2.55	2.93	6.53	11.65	18.2	4.77
40	104	4.80	2.50	3.95	8.45	29.20	3.26	3.85	10.70	25.00	38.5	7.15
45	113	7.10	3.15	5.60	13.10	54.00	4.15	5.08	17.10	41.40	81.0	10.70
50	122	10.45	3.98	7.85	20.00	116.00	5.29	6.72	27.85	78.00	170.00	16.00
55	131	15.50	5.00	11.20			6.72	8.83	45.00		345.00	24.00
60	140	22.80	6.30	15.85			8.58	11.62	73.00		775.00	36.00
65	149	34.00	7.90	22.40				15.40	118.00			
70	158	50.00	10.00	31.75				20.30	193.00			
75	167	74.00	12.60	44.70				26.60	313.00			

See Temperature-Resistance Characteristics of Electrical Insulation, *Technical Bulletin 21T4*.

FIGURE 48. Approximate temperature correction factors for rotating equipment, transformers and cables.

Humidity

When testing insulation resistance of miscellaneous electrical equipment, make note of whether the surrounding (ambient) air is dry or humid. Note also whether the temperature of the apparatus is above or below the ambient.

When testing important equipment, record the ambient temperature, and also wet and dry bulb thermometer readings, from which dew point and per cent relative or absolute humidity can be obtained by reference to published tables. A sling psychrometer is convenient for wet and dry bulb readings.

One of the most important considerations regarding humidity is that the equipment to be tested should be either operated, or otherwise maintained while idle, above the dew-point temperature, in which case the humidity can be largely disregarded.

The foregoing statement presupposes that the surfaces of the insulation are free of hygroscopic or deliquescent contaminants such as certain lints and acids or salts. Such conditions of uncleanliness, including ordinary dust and dirt, should if practicable, be removed before tests are made.

Dew point is the temperature at which vapor deposits as a liquid. In electrical equipment we are concerned primarily with the temperature of exposed surfaces, at which moisture in the air condenses on the surfaces and affects the overall resistance of the insulation. Since this condensation is sometimes difficult or impossible to observe by sight or feel, it is desirable to make dew-point measurements, especially on important equipment.

Insulation resistance is also affected to some extent by the moisture content of the atmosphere even though the temperature of the equipment is above the dew-point. In other words, a change in absolute humidity will cause a change in the resistance of insulation due to the vapor pressure of the atmosphere surrounding the equipment. This is particularly noticeable in equipment having a great number of leakage surfaces such as the armatures and fields of d-c rotating machines.

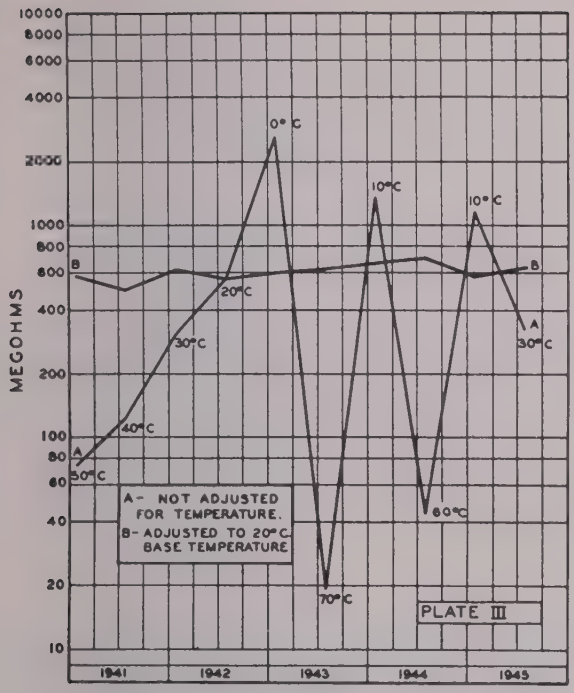

FIGURE 49. Typical record of transformer winding insulation resistance—showing values adjusted and values not adjusted for temperature.

XI

METHODS AND INTERPRETATION

In general, readings of insulation resistance should be considered as *relative,* unless one is interested only in whether minimum values, according to a rule or formula, are being maintained. Readings should be compared with test results made previously or subsequently. Periodic testing is, therefore, a logical approach to insulation resistance as an effective means for determining and following the condition of insulation in electrical equipment.

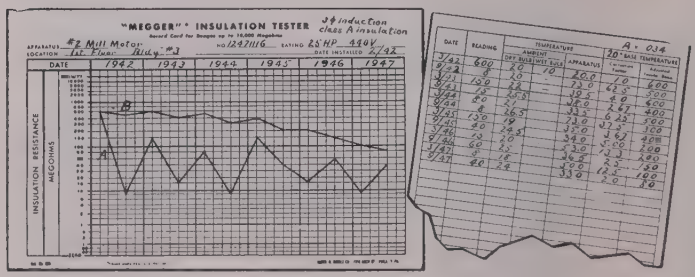

FIGURE 50. Typical record of insulation resistance of a mill motor. Curve A shows the test values as measured. Curve B shows these same values corrected to 20° C. Note the smoother character of Curve B which emphasizes the strong downward trend of the insulation resistance of this particular motor.

Reverse side of card shows the recorded test data. The wet bulb temperature is shown recorded only in the case where the motor temperature is the same as the ambient temperature. In all other tests shown, the motor temperature exceeds the ambient sufficiently to make condensation a negligible factor.

Periodic Tests

Insulation resistance tests should be made regularly on a monthly, semi-annual, or annual basis, depending on the type, location and importance of the equipment. For example, a small pump motor or a short control cable is frequently vital to the operation of a plant or process. Records of test results are important and graphs are helpful, as shown in Fig. 50.

Periodic tests should also be made *in the same manner,* i.e.—with the same test connections, and with the same test voltage applied for the same length of time. This is important; see page 35. Also, tests should be made at, or corrected to, the same temperature. See Fig. 50 and Section X. By thus removing these variables as far as possible, one can better observe the actual changes that may take place.

Finally, one should have full knowledge of the apparatus, its operating conditions, its history and what is connected to it.

Starting a Program

A program of periodic insulation testing should first of all be a part of a planned program of periodic inspection. If the plan is not to become a burden or bog down, it must be simple.

If the equipment under test is not actually in trouble or defective, do not be overly concerned as to what the as-found insulation resistance is. Write down the reading and if necessary, decide later whether anything should be done. By accumulating some test results of your own, you will be better able to analyze your problems and to use the data given in Section XII of this manual. You will eventually select or work out your own "standards" for minimum values of insulation resistance.

Anticipating Trouble

It is well to remember that the real value of periodic insulation resistance testing comes after some experience has been accumulated. You then become able to judge a series of readings and to anticipate failures.

Insulation Resistance Records

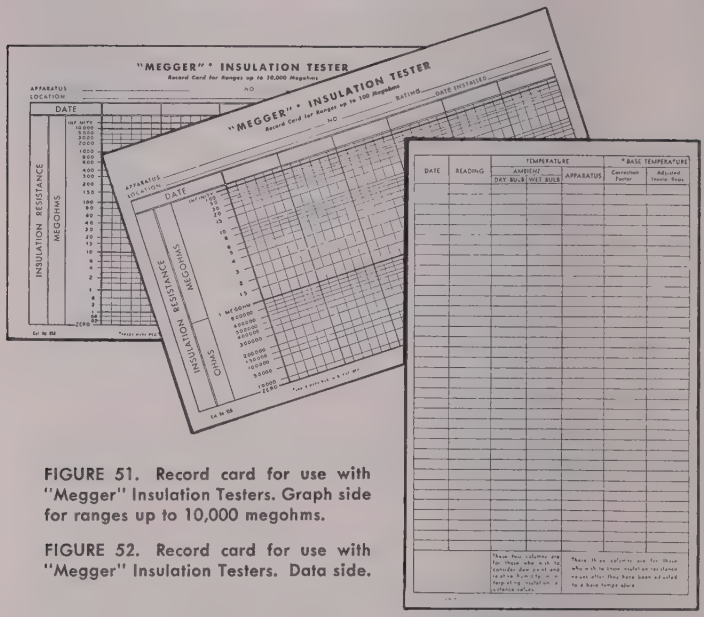

FIGURE 51. Record card for use with "Megger" Insulation Testers. Graph side for ranges up to 10,000 megohms.

FIGURE 52. Record card for use with "Megger" Insulation Testers. Data side.

Figures 51 and 52 show forms of record cards used for recording and assisting in the interpretation of insulation resistance readings. These can be purchased by the hundred or thousand.

In preparing forms to meet particular conditions, the following points should be considered:

1. Name, location, etc., of the apparatus.
2. Dates and value of test results. Record the actual reading of the instrument at the time of the test.
3. Range, voltage and serial number of the "Megger" instrument used.
4. Temperature of the apparatus; also, when testing large equipment, wet and dry bulb temperature readings for humidity and dew-point determinations.
5. Insulation resistance corrected for temperature.
6. A graph on which results can be plotted for convenient observation and comparison.

What To Do

The following are practical suggestions on how to interpret periodic insulation resistance tests and what to do as a result:

Condition indicated by insulation resistance or dielectric absorption ratio of:	What to Do
(a) Fair to high values and well maintained	*No cause for concern.*
(b) Fair to high values, but showing a constant tendency towards lower values	*Locate and remedy the cause and check the downward tendency.*
(c) Low but well maintained	*Condition is probably all right, but cause of the low values should be investigated.*
(d) So low as to be unsafe	*Clean, dry out or otherwise raise the values before placing equipment in service.*
(e) Fair or high values, previously well maintained but showing a sudden lowering	*Make tests at frequent intervals until the cause of low values is located and remedied; or until the values have become steady at a lower level but safe for operation; or until values become so low that it is unsafe to keep the equipment in operation.*

In the Absence of Prior Tests

Accepting the relative nature of insulation resistance values and the advantages of a series of readings, the question of how to judge the *immediate* condition of insulation must be considered. For example, a generator that is 20 years old, where its history is not well known and prior tests either have not been made or are not available.

Except in the case of an obviously low value of insulation resistance—the interpretation of a single reading is difficult. Usually more information is desirable.

For this reason, much attention has been directed during recent years to developing formulas for minimum values of insulation resistance for various types of electrical equipment. This subject is dealt with in Section XII.

The "Immediate" Condition

Fortunately, we are not without methods of attacking an immediate condition. The methods are simple and fairly conclu-

sive and tend to offset the lack of past records and the effects of temperature.

A reading of insulation resistance may be compared with tests made at the same time, but with different lengths of time of application of the test voltage. This makes use of the phenomenon known as dielectric absorption.

Also *tests may be made at the same time but using different test voltages.* This makes use of the Evershed effect or endosmosis.

Dielectric Absorption Method

This method of testing electrical equipment insulation is simple and fairly conclusive, and tends to offset the lack of past records and the effects of temperature. The condition of insulation is interpreted from a set of two or more readings made at one time, without the benefit of prior tests for comparison. Use is made of the fact that insulation in good condition and relatively clean and free from moisture shows an increase in its insulation resistance with continuous application of test voltage.

When direct current is applied to good insulation, there is a charge effect over an appreciable length of time. The insulation *absorbs* the direct current gradually. The time duration is much longer than that required to charge the electrostatic capacitance, and is readily observable by the use of "Megger" Insulation Testing Instruments. The absorption effect, if not masked by low leakage resistance, causes the reading to continue to rise sometimes for many minutes or even hours.

If the absorption effect is masked by moisture or other conditions, a flat characteristic of insulation resistance with time of voltage application will be observed. See curve for exciter armature in Fig. 55 by comparison with the curve for the generator field.

Suggested Procedure

Using hand-cranked instruments: With proper test connections, operate the instrument continuously for 1 minute. Read at 30 seconds and again at the end of the minute. Record for comparison.

CORRECTION: Caption to Fig 53 appli[illegible]
to Fig. 54 and vice versa.

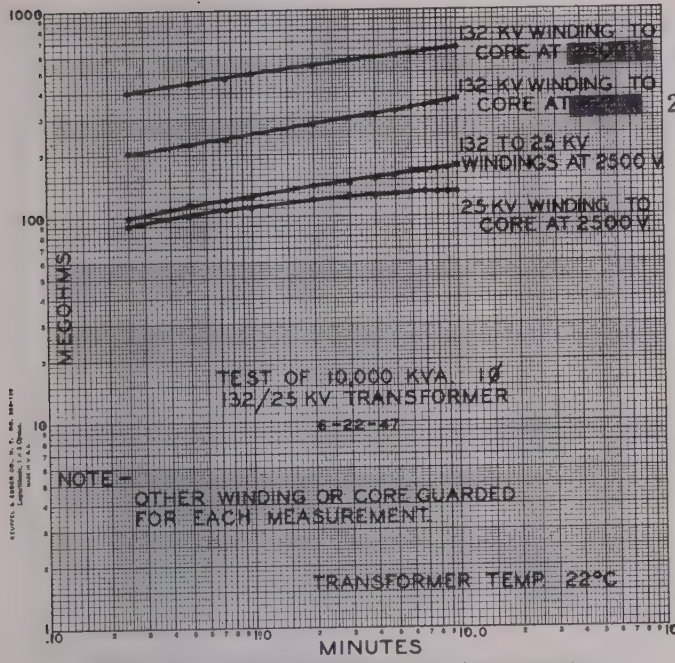
132 KV WINDING TO CORE AT [illegible]
625 V.
132 KV WINDING TO CORE AT [illegible]
2500 V.
132 TO 25 KV WINDINGS AT 2500 V
25 KV WINDING TO CORE AT 2500 V
MEGOHMS
TEST OF 10,000 KVA. 1Ø 132/25 KV TRANSFORMER
6-22-47
NOTE -
OTHER WINDING OR CORE GUARDED FOR EACH MEASUREMENT.
TRANSFORMER TEMP. 22°C
MINUTES

FIGURE 53. Dielectric Absorption tests on a large power transformer. The oil in this transformer was known to be in good condition. Note that the 2500- and 625-volt curves for the 132-kv winding coincide, indicating that the unit is relatively free of moisture.

Using power-operated instruments such as motor-driven or rectifier-operated sets: Run the test continuously for 10 minutes. Read at 1 minute and again at the end of the 10 minutes. Record for comparison. On large or very important equipment, dielectric absorption curves may be made by taking readings every minute and plotting as shown in Figures 53 and 54.

Interpretation

An appreciable increase in insulation resistance during the time of continuous application of the test voltage is an indication that the insulation is in good condition. Wet, dirty or poor insulation will usually show little or no increase.

As a rough guide, the following ratios may be used for classifying the general condition of insulation with respect to moisture and uncleanliness:

Condition of Insulation as Indicated by Dielectric Absorption Ratio*

Condition	60:30 Sec. Ratio	10:1 Min. Ratio
Poor	Less than 1.1	Less than 1:5
Questionable	1.1 to 1.25	1.5 to 2
Fair	1.25 to 1.4	2 to 3
Good	1.4 to 1.6	3 to 4
Excellent	Above 1.6	Above 4

* The *Dielectric Absorption Ratio* is the ratio of two readings of insulation resistance made at different time intervals during the same test. The 10 min. to 1 min. ratio is known as the *Polarization Index*.

These values are tentative. Further experience with the Dielectric Absorption Method may suggest changes in the ratios,

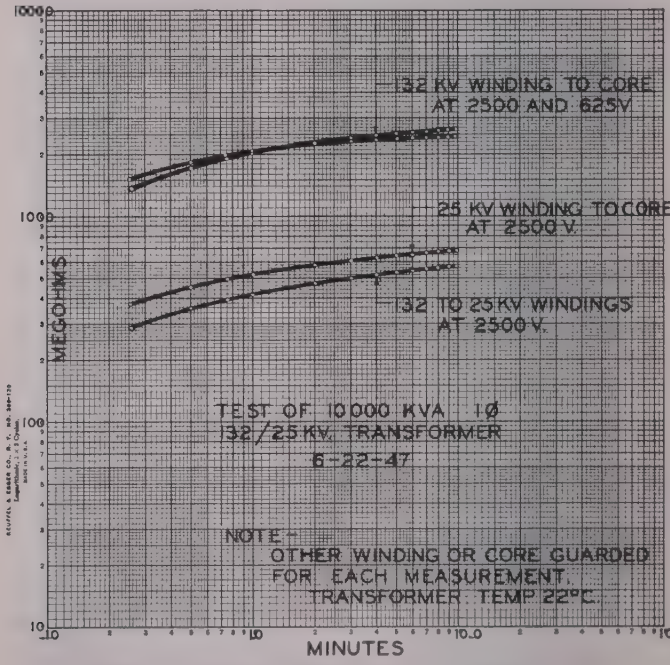
10000
1000
100
10
MEGOHMS
132 KV WINDING TO CORE AT 2500 AND 625V
25 KV WINDING TO CORE AT 2500 V.
132 TO 25 KV WINDINGS AT 2500 V.
TEST OF 10000 KVA 1Ø 132/25 KV. TRANSFORMER 6-22-47
NOTE - OTHER WINDING OR CORE GUARDED FOR EACH MEASUREMENT. TRANSFORMER TEMP 22°C.
1.0
10.0
100.
MINUTES

FIGURE 54. Dielectric Absorption tests on a large power transformer. The oil in this transformer was known to be acid and wet, which largely accounts for the relatively low values, and low 10/1-minute ratios. Note the difference in position of the 2500- and 625-volt curves for the 132-kv winding caused by the Evershed effect.

particularly with reference to the various classes of insulation and type of equipment. For example, equipment with a great number of leakage surfaces such as the armatures and fields of d-c rotating equipment may have its insulation resistance and Polarization Index values affected by the vapor pressure or absolute humidity of the surrounding atmosphere. Such equipment may have Polarization Index values at least 25% below those shown in the table under conditions of high absolute humidity, regardless of actual condition of the insulation. In such cases, Polarization Index values nearer to those shown in the table can be obtained by testing the equipment when it is at a temperature much higher than ambient.

In no case will the 60/30 sec. ratio or 10/1 min. ratio be less than one, unless carbonized paths develop within or over the surface of the insulation as a result of the test voltage being applied.

The Polarization Index values shown in the table may also be used as a guide in connection with the testing of oil filled equipment such as transformers. However, it must be remembered that the Polarization characteristics being measured are a combination of the solid insulation and the oil. In other words, insulation resistance measurements made between the windings and ground, and between windings will include the insulation resistance of the oil as well as the solid insulation. If the oil has been deteriorated by the presence of moisture or organic acids this condition will be observed in any insulation resistance and Polarization Index measurements obtained for the solid insulation. The Polarization Index values shown in the table are therefore, in the case of oil filled equipment, based on the assumption that the oil in the equipment is dry and relatively free from organic acids and sludge.

Any analysis of the condition of a transformer based on Polarization Index values should also consider the condition of the bushings and terminal boards involved.

Periodic Tests

Although the Dielectric Absorption Method of Insulation Resistance Testing lends itself more readily to immediate interpretation than does the short-time-reading method, much is to

be gained by making Dielectric Absorption measurements on a *periodic* basis. Both the insulation resistance level and the shape of the dielectric absorption curve may change.

Two-Voltage Method

The Two-Voltage Method has been applied particularly to determining the presence of moisture within the dielectric. If the insulation resistance is first tested—on the short-time-

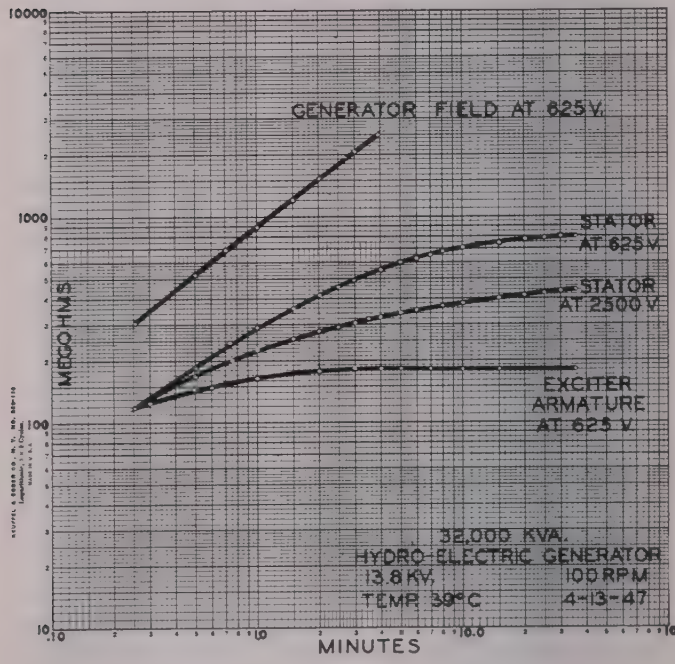

FIGURE 55. Dielectric Absorption test on a large hydro-electric generator. The field test was limited to 4 minutes because of the maximum 2500-megohm range of the 625-volt scale of the "Megger" instrument used. The spread between the 2500- and 625-volt stator test indicates a degree of moisture present. The flatness of the exciter armature curve indicates the need for some reconditioning.

reading basis—at one voltage, e.g., 500 volts, and then at a higher potential, e.g., 2500 volts, a lower value of insulation resistance at the higher d-c test voltage usually indicates the presence of moisture. The applied voltages should preferably be in the ratio of at least 1 to 4, and the higher voltage should not be so high as to risk overstressing the insulation. Experience has indicated that a change of 25% in the insulation resistance value observed with a 4 to 1 ratio in test voltages is due to the presence of an excessive amount of moisture.

This method is not based on a dielectric absorption phenomenon, but is more closely related to endosmosis or the "Evershed Effect"* which was originally observed some 35 years ago.

Periodic Tests

As with Dielectric Absorption measurements, the Two-Voltage Method of testing insulation resistance has increased value when made on a periodic or scheduled basis.

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* "The Characteristics of Insulation Resistance," by S. Evershed.

XII

INTERPRETATION—MINIMUM VALUES

Insulation resistance of electrical equipment is affected by many variables such as the equipment design, the type of insulating material used, including binders and impregnating compounds, the thickness of the insulation and its area, cleanliness (or uncleanliness), moisture, and temperature. For insulation resistance measurements to be conclusive in analyzing the condition of equipment being tested, these variables must be taken into consideration.

Such factors as the design of the equipment, the kind of insulating material used, and its thickness and area cease to be variables after the equipment has been put into service, and minimum insulation resistance values can be established within reasonable tolerances. The variables that must be considered after the equipment has been put into service, and at the time that the insulation resistance measurements are being made, are uncleanliness, moisture and temperature.

Good Housekeeping

The most important requirements in the reliable operation of electrical equipment are cleanliness, and the elimination of moisture penetration into the insulation. This may be considered as good housekeeping and is essential in the maintenance of all types of electrical equipment. The very fact that insulation resistance is affected by moisture and dirt, with due allowances for temperature, makes the "Megger" Insulation Tester the valuable tool which it is in electrical maintenance. It is at once a gauge of cleanliness and good housekeeping as well as a detector of deterioration and impending trouble.

What Readings to Expect—Periodic Tests

Several criteria for *minimum values* of insulation resistance have been developed and are here summarized. They should serve as a guide for equipment in service. However, periodic

tests on equipment in service will usually reveal readings considerably higher than the suggested minimum safe values.

It is therefore strongly recommended that records of periodic tests be kept, (see page 50) because persistent downward trends in insulation resistance usually give fair warning of impending trouble, even though the actual values may be *higher* than the suggested minimum safe values.

Conversely, allowances must be made for equipment in service showing periodic test values *lower* than the suggested minimum safe values, so long as the values remain stable or consistent. In such cases, after due consideration has been given to temperature and humidity conditions at the time of the test, there may be no need for concern. *This condition may be caused by uniformly distributed leakages of a harmless nature, and may not be the result of a dangerous localized weakness.* Here again, records of insulation resistance tests over a period of time reveal changes which may justify investigation. The "trend of the curve" may be more significant than the numerical values themselves.

The "One-Megohm" Rule

For many years *One Megohm* has been widely used as a fair allowable lower limit for insulation resistance of ordinary industrial electrical equipment rated up to 1000 volts, and is still recommended for those who may not be too familiar with insulation resistance testing practices, or who may not wish to approach the problem from a more technical point of view.

For equipment rated above 1000 volts the "one megohm" rule is usually stated: "A minimum of one megohm per thousand volts." Although this rule is somewhat arbitrary, and may be criticized as lacking an engineering foundation, it has stood the test of a good many years of practical experience. It gives some assurance that equipment is not too wet or not too dirty and has saved many an unnecessary breakdown.

More recent studies of the problem, however, have resulted in formulas for minimum values of insulation resistance that are based on the kind of insulating material used, and the electrical and physical dimensions of the types of equipment under consideration.

Minimum Values for Insulation Resistance

A-C Rotating Machinery

A recent report published by the American Institute of Electrical Engineers* deals with the problem of making and interpreting insulation resistance measurements for a-c rotating machinery. It reviews the factors which affect or change insulation resistance characteristics, outlines and recommends uniform methods for making tests, and presents formulas for the calculation of approximate minimum insulation resistance values for various types of a-c rotating machinery.

Figure 56 shows the recommendations—in curve form—for

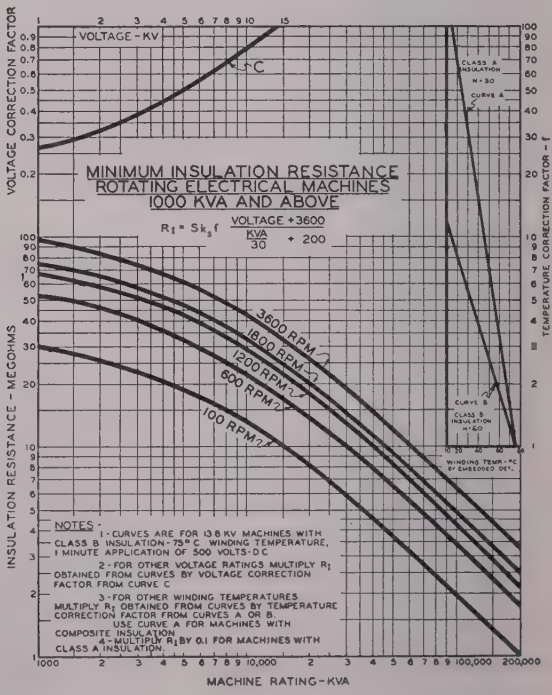

VOLTAGE CORRECTION FACTOR
VOLTAGE - KV
C
MINIMUM INSULATION RESISTANCE
ROTATING ELECTRICAL MACHINES
1000 KVA AND ABOVE
$R_I = Sk_s f$
VOLTAGE +3600
KVA
30 + 200
3600 RPM
1800 RPM
1200 RPM
600 RPM
100 RPM
INSULATION RESISTANCE - MEGOHMS
TEMPERATURE CORRECTION FACTOR - f
CLASS A INSULATION H=30
CURVE A
CURVE B
CLASS B INSULATION H=60
WINDING TEMP.-°C BY EMBEDDED DET.
NOTES -
1 - CURVES ARE FOR 13.8 KV MACHINES WITH CLASS B INSULATION - 75° C WINDING TEMPERATURE, 1 MINUTE APPLICATION OF 500 VOLTS D C
2 - FOR OTHER VOLTAGE RATINGS MULTIPLY R_I OBTAINED FROM CURVES BY VOLTAGE CORRECTION FACTOR FROM CURVE C
3 - FOR OTHER WINDING TEMPERATURES MULTIPLY R_I OBTAINED FROM CURVES BY TEMPERATURE CORRECTION FACTOR FROM CURVES A OR B. USE CURVE A FOR MACHINES WITH COMPOSITE INSULATION
4 - MULTIPLY R_I BY 0.1 FOR MACHINES WITH CLASS A INSULATION.
MACHINE RATING - KVA

FIGURE 56

*AIEE Report No. 43 Dec. 1946 published for comment and criticism by the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, 33 W. 39th St., New York, N.Y.

minimum insulation resistance of rotating electrical machines of 1000 kva and above.

The formula for these curves is—

$$R_1 = S\, k_s f\, \frac{E+3600}{\frac{kva}{30}+200}$$

where

R_1 = Minimum insulation resistance of armature or stator windings in megohms, measured at 500 volts direct current after one minute. (The test is made with all windings of the same voltage rating connected together.) The voltage shown in the formula is the rated operating voltage of the machine under test. The curves shown are for a 13.8-kv machine. For machines of other voltages the R_1 value must be multiplied by the voltage correction factor shown in the curve in the upper left-hand corner of Figure 56. The kva as shown in the formula is the rated kilovolt-amperes of the machine under test.

S = Machine speed constant. This factor has been taken into consideration in the 5 curves shown.

k_s = Insulation class constant. The curves shown are for Class B insulation. $k_s=1$. For class A insulation $k_s=0.1$.

f = Winding temperature constant. (Winding temperature obtained by imbedded detector.) These constants are given in curves in the upper right-hand corner of Figure 56.

For machines whose end windings are treated with semi-conducting material, for corona elimination purposes, the insulation resistance values to be expected may be as low as one-half that of a similarly untreated winding.

The fore-going information applies to the armatures of a-c rotating machinery. The minimum insulation resistance of the field windings of a-c machines, separately excited with voltage less than the rated terminal voltage of the machines, should be in the order of one megohm at an average winding temperature of 75°C.

For a-c rotating machines with ratings below 1000 kva, the AIEE report recommends the formula:

$$R_1 = \frac{E+1000}{1000}$$

where

R_1 = Minimum insulation resistance in megohms measured at 500 volts d-c, after 1 minute.

E = rated voltage of machine.

D-C Rotating Machinery

Motors and generators of the d-c type, including rotary converters, differ from a-c rotating machinery, in that they have more leakage surfaces to ground, in both their armatures and fields. Because of this, the insulation resistance of the component parts of such equipment will be inherently lower than that of a-c rotating machinery. On the other hand, if these many leakage surfaces are absolutely clean and the insulation resistance test is being made in an atmosphere of low absolute humidity, the insulation resistance values will be comparable to that of similar a-c machines.

In view of the fact that tests on d-c machines may be made under higher-than-average absolute humidity conditions, and since it is extremely difficult to clean equipment of this type thoroughly, insulation resistance values lower than those for a-c machines may be expected. See page 48.

As a tentative guide for the minimum insulation resistance of d-c armature windings the following formula has been suggested:

$$R = 30\frac{rpm+300}{kw+1000}$$

where

R = Minimum insulation resistance of armature when tested for 1 minute at 500 volts d-c at a winding temperature of 20°C. (See page 44 of technical *Bulletin 21T4* for temperature correction factors.)

Bushings

In the case of outdoor oil circuit breaker bushings, experience has shown that any bushing, with its assembled associated insulating members, should for reliable operation, have an insulation resistance value above 10,000 megohms at 20°C. This assumes that the oil within the tank is in good condition, that the breaker is separated from its external connections to other equipment, and that the porcelain weather shield is guarded. This means that each component such as the stripped bushing itself, cross-member, lift rod, lower arcing shield etc., should have an insulation resistance in excess of that value.

Any components which are superficially clean and dry and having values less than 10,000 megohms are usually deteriorated internally, by the presence of moisture or carbonized paths, to such an extent that they are not reliable for good service unless reconditioned. This is particularly so when operating under surge conditions such as during lightning disturbances. In the case of the stripped bushing itself, the lower stem and upper weather shield must be either perfectly clean or guarded before it is condemned as unreliable because of an insulation resistance value less than 10,000 megohms.

What has been said for stripped oil circuit breaker bushings also applies to bushings for other equipment such as transformers. Since bushings and other associated members have very high insulation resistance values normally, the Cat. 628, 10,000-megohm, 2500-volt "Megger" Insulation Testing Set is necessary in testing such equipment.

Cable and Conductors

Cable and conductor installations present a wide variation of conditions from the point of view of the resistance of the insulation. These conditions result from the many kinds of insulating materials used, the voltage rating or insulation thickness, and the length of the circuit involved in the measurement. Furthermore, such circuits usually extend over great distances, and may be subjected to wide variations in temperature, which will have an effect on the insulation resistance values obtained. The terminals of cables and conductors will also have an effect on the test values unless they are clean and dry, or guarded. See Section VIII.

The Insulated Power Cable Engineers Association gives minimum values of insulation resistance in its Specifications for various types of cables and conductors. These minimum values are for new, single-conductor wire and cable after being subjected to an a-c high voltage test and based on a d-c test potential of 500 volts applied for one minute at a temperature of 60°F.

These standard minimum values (for single-conductor cable) are based on the following formula:

$$R = K \log_{10} \frac{D}{d}$$

where

R = megohms per 1000 feet of cable
K = constant for insulating material
D = outside diameter of conductor insulation
d = diameter of conductor

Minimum values of K at 60°F.

Insulation Type	
Impregnated Paper	2640
Varnished Cambric	2640
Polyethylene	above 50,000
Vinyl Thermoplastic	500

	Natural Rubber	*GR-S Rubber*
Code	3800	1000
Performance	21,120	2000
Heat Resistant	10,560	2000
Ozone Resisting	5280	1000
Natural Rubber, 30% A.O. A.S.T.M. D27	21,120	

See pages 68 and 69 for tables of $\log_{10} \frac{D}{d}$

The insulation resistance of one conductor of a multiconductor cable to all others and sheath is:

$$R = K \log_{10} \frac{D}{d}$$

where

D = diameter over insulation of equivalent single conductor cable
$= d + 2c + 2b$
d = diameter of cond. (for sector cables d equals diameter of round cond. of same cross-section)
c = thickness of conductor insulation
b = thickness of jacket insulation

(all dimensions must be expressed in same units).

Transformers

Acceptable insulation resistance values for dry and compound-filled transformers should be comparable to those for class A rotating machinery, although no standard minimum values are available.

Oil-filled transformers or voltage regulators present a special problem in that the condition of the oil has a marked influence on the insulation resistance of the windings. See page 57.

In the absence of more reliable data the following formula is suggested:

$$R = \frac{CE}{\sqrt{kva}}$$

R = minimum 1-minute 500-volt d-c insulation resistance in megohms from winding to ground, with other winding or windings guarded, or from winding to winding with core guarded.

C = a constant for 20°C measurements.

E = voltage rating of winding under test.

kva = rated capacity of winding under test.

For tests of winding to ground with the other winding or windings grounded, the values will be much less than that given by the formula. R in this formula is based on dry, acid-free, sludge-free oil, and bushings and terminal boards that are in good condition.

Values of C at 20°C.

	60-cycle	*25-cycle*
Tanked oil-filled type	1.5	1.0
Untanked oil-filled type	30.0	20.0
Dry or compound-filled type	30.0	20.0

The foregoing formula is intended for single-phase transformers. If the transformer under test is of the three-phase type, and the three individual windings are being tested as one, then:

E = voltage rating of one of the single-phase windings (phase to phase for delta connected units and phase to neutral for star connected units.)

kva = rated capacity of the complete three-phase winding under test.

Values of $\text{Log}_{10} \frac{D}{d}$

A.W.G. or C.M.	Insulation Thickness - Inches												
	.047	.063	.078	.094	.109	.125	.141	.156	.172	.188	.203	.219	.234
14 sol.	.392	.470	.537	.594	.645	.691	.732	.770	.804	.836	.866	.894	.921
12	.334	.405	.467	.520	.568	.611	.651	.686	.720	.751	.779	.806	.832
10	.283	.348	.404	.453	.498	.538	.575	.609	.641	.670	.698	.723	.748
8	.239	.296	.347	.392	.432	.470	.505	.537	.566	.594	.621	.645	.669
6 str.		.225	.267	.305	.340	.373	.403	.431	.453	.483	.506	.529	.550
5		.206	.245	.281	.314	.346	.373	.401	.426	.450	.463	.495	.515
4		.187	.224	.257	.289	.318	.345	.371	.395	.418	.440	.460	.480
3		.171	.204	.236	.265	.293	.318	.343	.366	.388	.409	.429	.448
2		.155	.186	.215	.243	.269	.293	.316	.338	.359	.379	.398	.416
1		.139	.168	.195	.220	.244	.267	.288	.309	.328	.347	.365	.382
1/0		.126	.152	.177	.201	.223	.244	.264	.284	.302	.320	.337	.354
2/0		.114	.138	.161	.183	.204	.223	.242	.261	.278	.295	.311	.327
3/0		.102	.125	.146	.166	.185	.204	.221	.238	.255	.271	.286	.301
4/0		.0923	.113	.132	.151	.168	.187	.202	.218	.233	.248	.262	.276
250,000		.0854	.104	.123	.140	.157	.173	.189	.204	.218	.232	.246	.259
300,000		.0787	.0963	.113	.130	.145	.160	.175	.189	.203	.216	.229	.250
350,000		.0731	.0897	.106	.121	.136	.150	.164	.177	.190	.203	.215	.227
400,000		.0688	.0845	.0995	.114	.128	.142	.155	.168	.181	.193	.204	.216
500,000		.0620	.0763	.0901	.103	.116	.129	.141	.153	.165	.176	.187	.198
600,000			.0700	.0853	.0952	.107	.119	.130	.141	.152	.163	.173	.183
700,000			.0686	.0769	.0888	.100	.111	.122	.133	.143	.153	.163	.172
750,000			.0665	.0749	.0861	.0971	.108	.118	.129	.139	.148	.157	.167
800,000			.0644	.0727	.0836	.0943	.105	.115	.125	.135	.144	.154	.163
900,000			.0580	.0687	.0793	.0895	.0994	.108	.120	.128	.137	.146	.155
1,000,000			.0551	.0656	.0755	.0851	.0948	.104	.113	.122	.131	.140	.148
1,250,000			.0500	.0590	.0681	.0770	.0856	.0943	.103	.111	.119	.127	.134
1,500,000			.0456	.0541	.0625	.0708	.0789	.0870	.0946	.102	.110	.116	.125
1,750,000			.0423	.0502	.0581	.0658	.0734	.0810	.0899	.0954	.103	.110	.117
2,000,000			.0397	.0472	.0546	.0619	.0691	.0761	.0830	.0898	.0965	.103	.108
2,500,000			.0357	.0425	.0492	.0558	.0623	.0687	.0750	.0812	.0874	.0934	.0993

Continued on next page.

Values of $\text{Log}_{10} \frac{D}{d}$

A.W.G. or C.M.	Insulation Thickness – Inches												
	.250	.266	.281	.297	.313	.328	.344	.359	.375	.391	.407	.422	.438
14 sol.	.945												
12	.856												
10	.771	.793	.814	.834	.853	.871	.889	.906	.922				
8	.691	.712	.731	.751	.770	.787	.804	.821	.836	.851	.866	.880	.894
6 str.	.570	.590	.608	.626	.643	.660	.676	.699	.706	.720	.734	.746	.760
5	.535	.554	.572	.589	.606	.622	.637	.652	.667	.680	.694	.707	.720
4	.500	.517	.535	.551	.568	.583	.598	.613	.625	.640	.653	.666	.678
3	.466	.483	.500	.516	.532	.547	.562	.576	.589	.603	.615	.628	.640
2	.433	.450	.466	.482	.497	.512	.526	.540	.553	.565	.578	.590	.602
1	.399	.415	.431	.445	.461	.474	.487	.501	.513	.525	.538	.549	.561
1/0	.369	.385	.399	.414	.428	.441	.454	.466	.479	.491	.502	.514	.525
2/0	.342	.356	.370	.384	.397	.410	.422	.435	.446	.458	.469	.480	.490
3/0	.315	.329	.342	.355	.367	.380	.392	.403	.414	.425	.436	.447	.457
4/0	.289	.302	.315	.327	.339	.351	.362	.373	.384	.395	.405	.415	.425
250,000	.272	.284	.296	.309	.320	.331	.342	.352	.363	.373	.383	.392	.402
300,000	.254	.266	.278	.289	.300	.310	.321	.331	.341	.351	.360	.369	.379
350,000	.239	.250	.262	.272	.283	.293	.303	.313	.323	.332	.341	.350	.359
400,000	.227	.236	.249	.259	.269	.279	.289	.298	.308	.317	.326	.334	.343
500,000	.208	.218	.228	.238	.248	.257	.266	.275	.284	.292	.301	.309	.317
600,000	.193	.203	.212	.221	.230	.239	.248	.256	.265	.273	.281	.289	.297
700,000	.181	.191	.199	.209	.217	.225	.234	.242	.250	.258	.266	.273	.281
750,000	.176	.185	.194	.203	.211	.220	.228	.236	.243	.251	.259	.266	.273
800,000	.172	.180	.189	.198	.206	.214	.222	.230	.237	.245	.252	.260	.267
900,000	.164	.172	.180	.189	.196	.204	.212	.219	.227	.234	.242	.249	.255
1,000,000	.157	.165	.173	.181	.189	.196	.203	.211	.218	.225	.232	.239	.245
1,250,000	.142	.150	.157	.165	.172	.179	.186	.192	.199	.206	.212	.219	.225
1,500,000	.132	.139	.146	.153	.159	.166	.172	.179	.185	.190	.197	.204	.210
1,750,000	.123	.130	.136	.143	.149	.155	.162	.168	.174	.180	.185	.191	.197
2,000,000	.116	.122	.128	.135	.141	.145	.153	.159	.164	.170	.176	.181	.187
2,500,000	.105	.111	.117	.122	.128	.134	.139	.144	.150	.156	.160	.165	.170

XIII

PRINCIPLE OF OPERATION OF "MEGGER" INSULATION TESTING INSTRUMENTS

The "Megger" ohmmeter is a permanent magnet, cross-coil indicating instrument whose accuracy is independent of the exact voltage supplied for the test. No compensation or adjustment is necessary.

The ohmmeter consists essentially of two coils—*A* and *B* in Figure 57, mounted on the same moving system with pointer attached and free to rotate in a permanent magnet field. The system is pivoted in spring-supported jewel bearings.

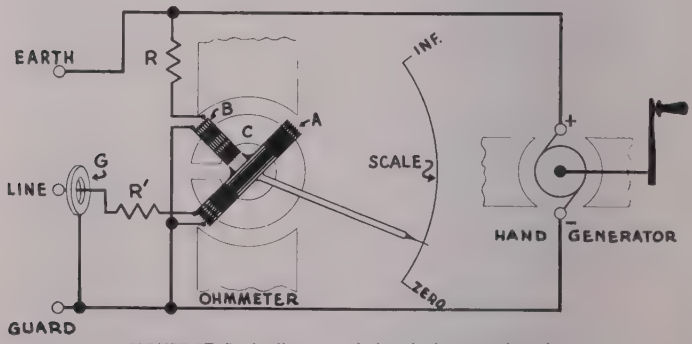


FIGURE 57. Basic diagram of electrical connections for the "Megger" Insulation Tester.

There are no control springs such as are used in ammeters and voltmeters. Current is led to the coils by flexible conducting ligaments which offer the least possible restraint, so that when the instrument is level and no current is supplied, the pointer should float towards Infinity.

Deflecting and Control Coils

The deflecting coil *A* is connected in series with a fixed ballast resistance *R'* and the resistance under test, the latter being connected to the Earth and Line terminals.

The control coil *B* is connected in series with a fixed resistance *R*.

Coils *A* and *B* are mounted on the moving system at a fixed angle to each other, and are so connected that when current is supplied they develop opposing torques and tend to turn the moving system in opposite directions. The pointer, therefore, comes to rest where the two torques are balanced.

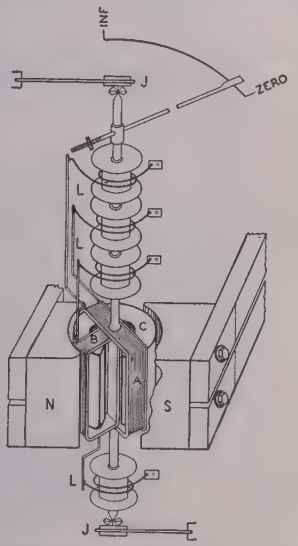


FIGURE 58. Showing in diagrammatic form the moving system and magnetic field of the "Megger" true ohmmeter.

A = deflecting coil

B = control coil

LLL = leading-in ligaments hung loosely around insulating spools

JJ = spring-supported jewel bearings

NS = pole pieces of permanent magnet system

C = C-shaped iron core mounted in a fixed position coaxially with the moving system

With either perfect insulation or nothing at all connected to the testing terminals, no current will flow in coil *A*. Coil *B*, however, receives current and will take a position opposite the gap in the C-shaped iron core. The corresponding position of the pointer over the scale is marked Infinity.

When a resistance is connected to the Earth and Line terminals, a current will flow in the deflecting coil *A* and the corresponding torque will draw coil *B* away from the Infinity position into a field of gradually increasing magnetic strength until a balance is obtained between the forces exerted by the two coils. In this manner coil *B* acts like a restraining spring.

Scales—Calibration

By connecting resistances of different known values to the Earth and Line terminals and marking the corresponding position of the pointer in each case, a scale calibrated in resistance is obtained. In this manner the scales of all "Megger" Insulation Testers are *individually* calibrated and drawn.

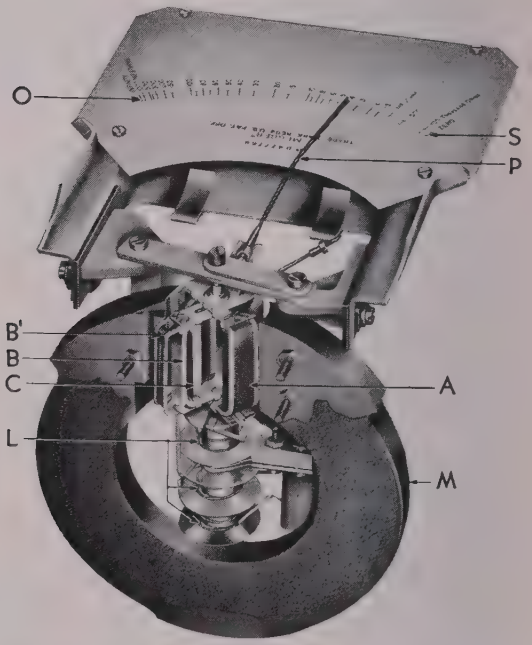


FIGURE 59. Ohmmeter system of the "Meg" type of "Megger" Insulation Tester.

OS = ohmmeter scale
P = pointer
B&B' = control coils
A = deflecting coils
C = fixed C-shaped iron core
L = ligaments
M = permanent magnet

If the Earth and Line terminals are short circuited, the pointer simply moves to Zero. The ballast resistance R' offers ample protection against excessive current in coil A. With no current supplied to the ohmmeter, the pointer will relax and float towards Infinity as already explained.

Variations in Generator Voltage

The calibration of the "Megger" ohmmeter is unaffected by the applied voltage, within plus or minus 20% of normal—or between 400 and 600 volts in a 500-volt instrument. This is because the two ohmmeter coils *A* and *B* (Figure 57) receive current from the same source. Any change in the applied voltage will affect both coils in the same proportion, and therefore the pointer will take the same position for a given resistance under test. Consequently the calibration is unaffected by the exact speed at which a hand crank may be turned or by the exact strength of the permanent magnets.

Guard System

Figure 57 shows how the Line terminal is guarded by a metallic guard washer which prevents errors due to leakage across the outer surface of the instrument between the Earth and Line terminals. The leakage current is simply shunted away from the Line terminal and returns to the current supply without passing through the deflecting coil of the ohmmeter.

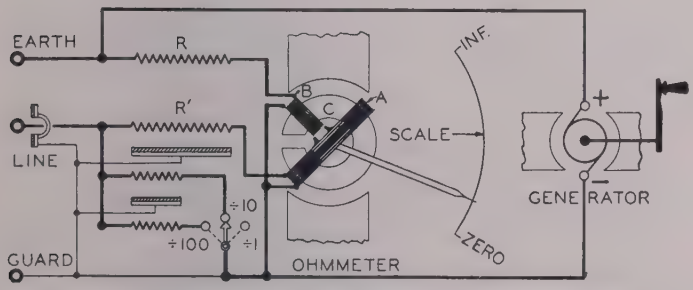


FIGURE 60. Basic diagram, as in Figure 57, but including the Guard System and ratio switch.

Figure 60 shows, in principle, how the Guard System is used inside the instrument. The same Figure also shows the method of shunting the ballast resistance *R'* for the purpose of dividing the scale range by 10 and by 100.

All types of the "Megger" Insulation Testing Instruments have the Guard System, except the Midget type, which is of low range and has a molded plastic case of good insulating quality.

Voltage Characteristics

When using a "Megger" Insulation Tester the voltage actually applied to the apparatus under test is a function of the resistance under test in series with the instrument ballast resistance R' in Figs. 57, 60 and 61. Voltage regulation of the generator or other source of supply may be considered negligible. The voltage characteristic is therefore expressed by the formula—

$$V_t = \frac{R}{R+R'} Vi$$

Where V_t = the terminal or applied voltage
R = Insulation Resistance of the apparatus under test
R' = Instrument ballast resistance
Vi = instrument voltage, i.e. the voltage generated or applied to the instrument

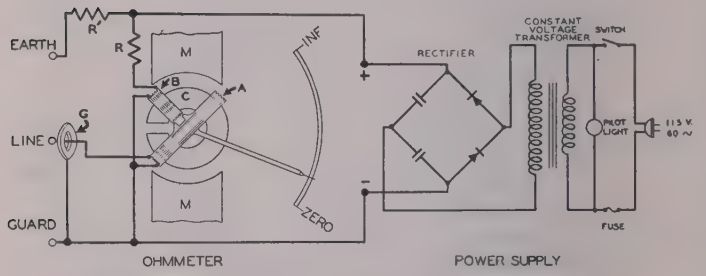


FIGURE 61. Basic diagram of rectifier-operated "Meg" type.

Figure 62 shows the Earth-to-Line terminal voltage characteristic for a 500-volt, 200-megohm "Meg" type instrument, having ballast resistance of approximately 100,000 ohms. If the resistance under test happens to be 100,000 ohms, the rated instrument voltage of 500 will obviously be divided equally between these two resistances and the voltage at the Earth and Line terminals will be 250. When testing an external resistance of 1 megohm, the terminal voltage will be in the ratio of 1,000,000 to 1,100,000, i.e., 10/11 of the total, or approximately 455 volts.

This example shows: (a) that over the upper two-thirds of the scale (the principal working range of the instrument) 90% or more of the rated voltage is applied to the equipment under test, and (b) that low insulation resistance is automatically protected from what otherwise might be too high a voltage.

Figure 63 shows the Earth-to-Line terminal voltage characteristic of a high-range, heavy-duty type instrument having a ballast resistance of 1 megohm. Note that over practically the entire scale 90% or more of the rated voltage is applied to the equipment under test.

Voltage characteristic data for other types and ratings of "Megger" Insulation Testers will be furnished upon request.

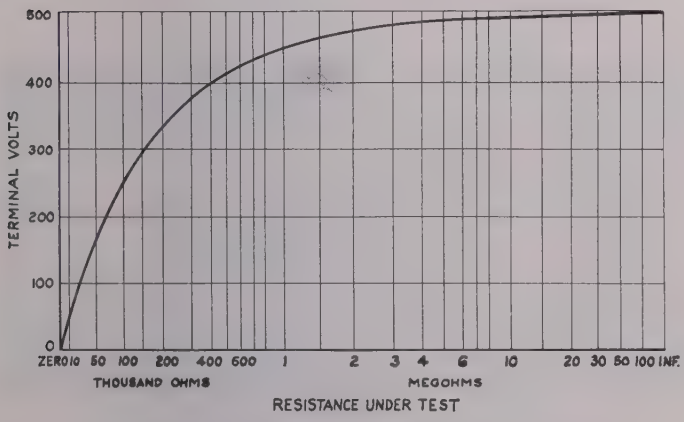


FIGURE 62. Earth-to-Line terminal voltage characteristic of a 500-volt "Meg" type instrument having a ballast resistance of 100,000 ohms.

The abscissae scales in Figures 62 and 63 are laid out to correspond with the actual scales of the instruments. Compare Figure 30 and the high-range (lower) scale in Figure 31. This practical form of presentation is suggested for judging the voltage characteristic of any type of insulation resistance testing device.

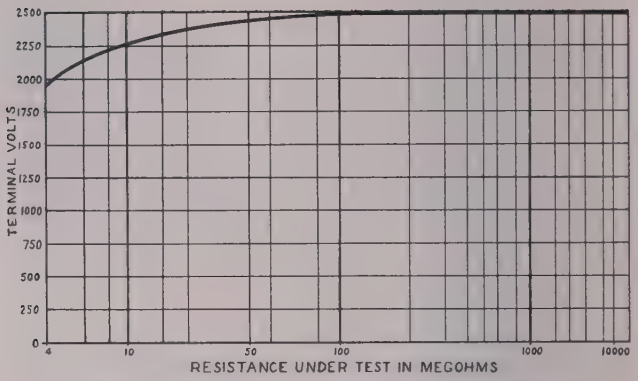
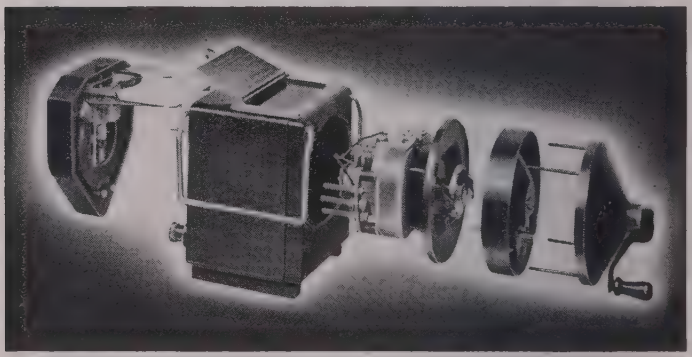


FIGURE 63. Terminal Voltage characteristic of a 2500-volt, 10,000-megohm "Megger" Insulation Tester, having a ballast resistance of 1 megohm.



Expanded view showing general assembly of the constant-voltage "Meg" type of "Megger" Insulation Tester.

XIV

SPECIAL DIRECTIONS FOR CONSTANT-VOLTAGE "BRIDGE-MEG" TYPE

of "Megger" Insulation and Resistance Testers

The "Bridge-Meg" type of "Megger" instrument combines the functions of an insulation tester and a Wheatstone Bridge. A "Megger" Ohmmeter and a Wheatstone Bridge set are mounted together in one case with a hand generator to supply test current. A selector switch permits instant change between the two functions.

FIGURE 64. Top view of a "Bridge-Meg" Resistance Tester ready for use.

For Insulation Resistance Tests

See General Directions for Hand-Driven Types, page 3.

Set Selector Switch to MEG and proceed the same as with the "Meg" type, page 10.

When checking Infinity, turn the Index Adjuster (using preferably a nonmagnetic screw driver) one way or the other, while cranking at full slip speed until the pointer stands over the Infinity line.

Normal cranking speed is slightly above that at which the clutch is felt to slip, which is about 160 rpm.

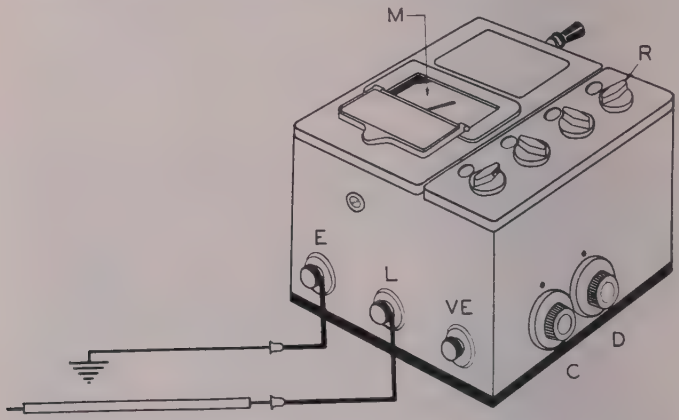


FIGURE 65. Connections for testing insulation resistance, using the "Bridge-Meg" Resistance Tester. The change-over switch C is set at MEG. M = insulation resistance scale.

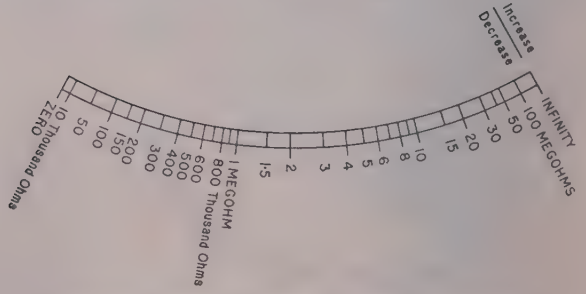


FIGURE 66. Facsimile scale of a 500-volt, 100-megohm "Bridge-Meg" instrument.

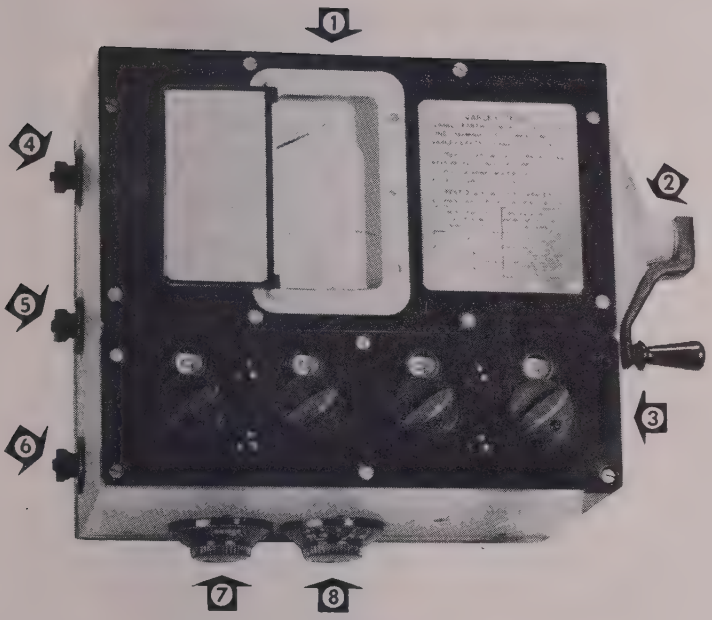


FIGURE 67

1. Scale—reads directly in ohms and megohms for insulation resistance tests. The pointer "floats" near infinity until the hand generator is operated.
2. Constant-Voltage Hand Generator—supplies direct current at rated voltage (up to 1000) for insulation resistance tests and at about one-third rated voltage for Wheatstone Bridge measurements. Simply turn the crank at about 160 rpm.
3. Wheatstone Bridge Resistances—adjustable dial decade resistance units each reading 0 to 9, giving a total of 9999 ohms for Bridge measurements, or the setting of the ratio switch. Each dial clicks from one position to the next and the figures show plainly through small windows in the top of the instrument.
4. Testing Terminals—these two terminals are used for both insulation tests
5. and Wheatstone Bridge measurements of conductor resistance, according to the position of the change-over switch.
6. This terminal is included in instruments having the Varley Loop feature and is for the Varley Earth connection when locating faults.
7. Change-Over Switch—a multi-position rotary switch for changing internal connections between insulation resistance tests, Wheatstone Bridge measurements and the Varley Loop connection.
8. Ratio Switch—indicates whether the Wheatstone Bridge resistance dial readings should be: $\div$ 100, $\div$ 10, $\times$ 1, $\times$ 10, or $\times$ 100.

For Wheatstone Bridge Measurements

The Selector switch is set to BRIDGE; the hand generator is operated to supply test current; and the resistance and ratio dials are manipulated until the pointer of the ohmmeter (which acts as a galvanometer) stands over the Infinity mark. In other respects—for both Bridge and Varley loop measurements—the instrument is operated in the same manner as any high grade portable Wheatstone Bridge.

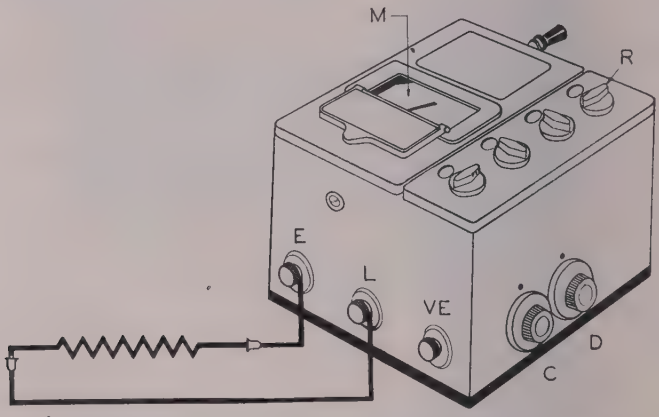


FIGURE 68. External connections for making Wheatstone Bridge measurements of conductor resistance, using the "Bridge-Meg" Resistance Tester. The change-over switch C is set at BRIDGE. *R* = Resistance Dials. *D* = Ratio Dial.

Conductor Resistance—Up to 999,900 Ohms

First: *Set the change-over switch to MEG.*

Place the instrument and check pointer indications at Infinity and Zero as if preparing to make insulation resistance tests, page 3.

Second: *Set the change-over switch to BRIDGE.*

A. Connect the resistance to be measured as shown in Figure 68 and set the ratio switch *D* to 1, and all the resistance dials *R* to Zero.

B. Turn the generator crank slowly clockwise; the pointer will take up a position off the scale and above the Infinity line: that is to say, on the side marked "Increase."

C. While turning slowly with the right hand, increase the resistance in R by manipulating the resistance dials step by step. Begin with the Thousands dial and go on with the Hundreds, Tens and Units until the pointer reads accurately on the Infinity line, with cranking speed having been raised to normal.

Should a balance be obtained at less than 1000 ohms, a more accurate result may be secured by shifting the ratio switch to $\div$ 10 and obtaining a new balance.

Similarly if the balance is obtained with less than 100 ohms, use the $\div$ 100 ratio and rebalance.

If with 9999 ohms in the resistance box, the pointer indicates "Increase," shift the ratio switch to $\times$ 10 and repeat the above adjustment of R.

If with 9999 ohms in the resistance box, the pointer still indicates "Increase," shift the ratio switch to $\times$ 100 and again repeat the adjustment of R until a balance of the pointer on the Infinity line is secured.

D. Maximum sensitiveness is secured at normal ("slip") speed. See that the final adjustment of the resistance dials is correct. Read off the figures shown on the dials. This reading, multiplied or divided as the case may be, by the ratio in use, gives the value of the resistance under test.

E. To obtain maximum accuracy set the resistance dials to give as high a reading as possible. Therefore, when making a test, set the ratio switch D as far as possible toward $\div$ 100.

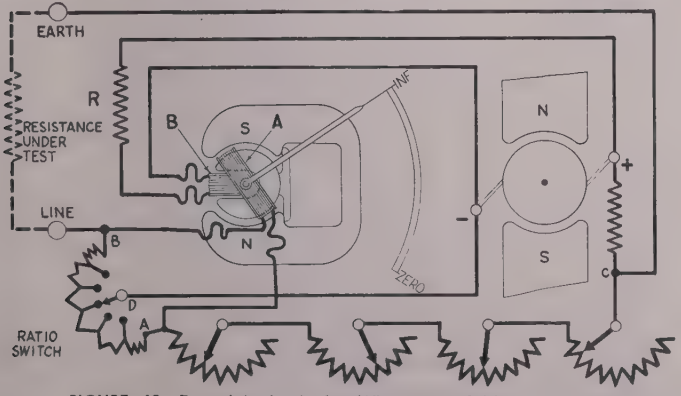


FIGURE 69. Essential circuit for Wheatstone Bridge measurements with external connections as in Figure 68.

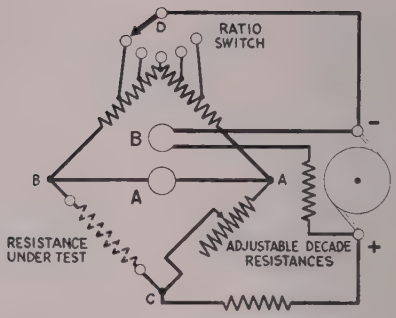


FIGURE 70. Schematic diagram for Figure 69.

For example:

Resistance Measured X	Setting of Resistance Dials R	Position of Ratio Switch ($X = R$ multiplied or divided by —)
428,500 ohms	4285	× 100
42,850 ohms	4285	× 10
4,285 ohms	4285	× 1
428.5 ohms	4285	÷ 10
42.85 ohms	4285	÷ 100
4.28 ohms	0428	÷ 100
.43 ohms	0043	÷ 100

Suggestions

A small amount of practice will enable the observer to move the resistance box dials with speed and assurance.

The decade switches are very carefully made. They will give no trouble unless the Bridge is out of service for a long time, when it will be wise to swing the switches over the range of contacts a number of times, to brighten them.

When measuring field coils of generators and motors, or other circuits having self-induction, or apparatus having electrostatic capacitance, the generator crank must be turned above "slip" speed in order to obtain constant current through the circuit. In this way the effects of inductance and capacitance are eliminated.

Quick but less accurate measurements of resistance over 10,000 ohms can be made by pointer indications using the instrument as an insulation tester.

Regarding Accuracy

The accuracy of the "Bridge-Meg" instrument for Wheatstone Bridge measurements is maximum for resistances between about 10 and 10,000 ohms, which is inherent in the theory of the Wheatstone Bridge and common to all ordinary types of the Bridge. The decade and ratio dials are therefore arranged so that the dial indications may be depended upon to the number of significant figures which the dials indicate when a balance is obtained. For 10 ohms and above there will be four significant figures as shown in the tabulation on the opposite page.

It should be borne in mind that with any portable Wheatstone Bridge set resistances are very apt to be measured, the temperature of which it is impossible to ascertain closely. As copper wire changes in resistance 1 per cent for every 2.5° C. change in temperature, repeated tests of field coils, magnet windings, etc., are quite sure to show considerable variation.

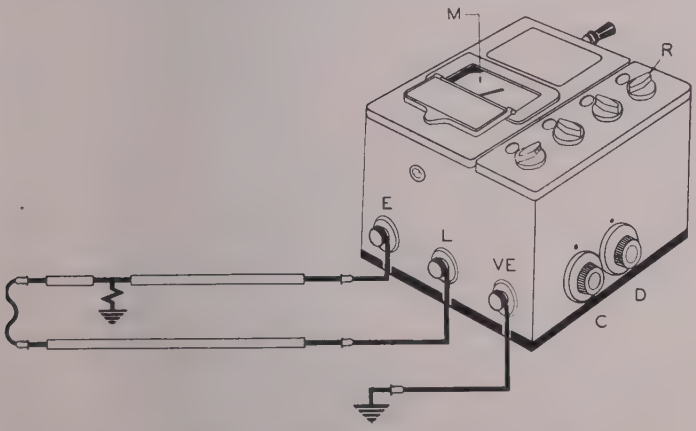


FIGURE 71. External connections for making Varley loop tests with a Varley Loop "Bridge-Meg" Resistance Tester. The change-over switch C is set first at BRIDGE and then at VARLEY. *R* = Resistance Dials. *D* = Ratio Dial.

Location of Faults by the Varley Loop Test—Using the Varley Loop "Bridge-Meg" Type

The Varley loop method for locating faults consists essentially of a special Wheatstone Bridge connection for measuring

the resistance of the conductor *to the fault*. By applying the Bridge current to the conductor at the fault—through ground if it is grounded, or through another conductor in case of a crossed circuit—the accuracy of the measurement is not affected by the resistance of the fault. The distance to the fault in feet is then computed from the resistance to the fault and the resistance and length of the conductor. Follow directions given below.

In making a Varley loop test to locate a fault on a wire or circuit there must be available a second wire, preferably of the same resistance per unit length, and *without fault*. Both wires are assumed to have uniform resistance: also the resistance should be at least several ohms for reasonably accurate measurements.

The *Varley-Loop "Bridge-Meg"* is well adapted for locating faults on telephone and telegraph lines and other circuits having the same order of resistance. These include usual types of power control wiring and some power and lighting circuits. Electric power wires and cables generally are too low in resistance to be measured accurately by ordinary Wheatstone Bridge Methods.

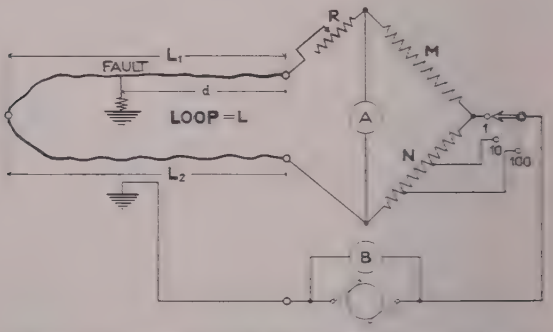


FIGURE 72. Schematic diagram of internal and external electrical connections for locating a fault by the Varley loop test.

Preparation

A. Loop the lines: i.e., at the distant end join the faulty wire to a good wire. Make a good connection having negligible resistance.

As shown in Figure 71, connect the faulty wire to the Earth terminal and the good wire to the Line terminal. Connect the Varley Earth terminal to a good ground.

The location of the fault is much simplified when the two lines have the same resistance per unit length, i.e., are of the same size and kind of wire. They do not need to be of the same linear length, but both lengths should be known.

For the application of the Varley loop method to the location of a fault when the looped conductors are of unequal resistance per unit length, reference should be made to textbooks on the general subject of Varley loop measurements.

First Measurement

B. Measure the total resistance of the looped lines ($L_1 + L_2$ in Figure 72) by the straight Wheatstone Bridge Method, page 75. Call this value L.

Be sure to set the ratio switch as far as possible toward ÷ 100 so as to give a high reading on the resistance box dials. See paragraph E, page 81.

Second Measurement

C. Set the change-over switch to VARLEY, and obtain a second Bridge balance, as if making a Bridge test, as in B. Do this if possible with the ratio switch on "divide-by-100." The actual numerical reading of the resistance dials is called R. Note separately the setting of the ratio switch—whether divided by 100, 10 or 1.

Calculations

D. Calculate the resistance d (*in ohms*) to the fault from one of the following formulas.* [The formula to use depends on the setting of the ratio switch when making the Varley loop test in C.]

---

* The general formula for the Varley loop measurement is as follows: Referring to Figure 72 it will be seen that

$$\frac{M}{N} = \frac{R+d}{L-d}, \text{ from which } d = \frac{L\frac{M}{N} - R}{1 + \frac{M}{N}}$$

$\frac{M}{N}$ is the numerical value of the Bridge ratio as indicated by the position of the ratio switch after a balance is obtained with the Varley connection. *e.g.*—1, 10, or 100.

$d = \frac{L - R}{2}$ if the ratio switch is at × 1 on Varley test

$d = \frac{10L - R}{11}$ if the ratio switch is at ÷ 10 on Varley test

$d = \frac{100L - R}{101}$ if the ratio switch is at ÷ 100 on Varley test

Where d = resistance in ohms from resistance box to fault:
L = resistance of looped lines $L_1 + L_2$, as in B.
R = actual numerical reading of resistance box dials in the Varley test, as in C.

E. *If the two lines are of equal resistance per unit length* (that is of the same kind and size of wire), the distance in *feet* from the near end of the faulty line to the fault

$$= \frac{d}{L} (l_1 + l_2).$$

where d = resistance to fault in ohms as in D:
L = resistance of looped lines $L_1 + L_2$, as in B;
l_1 and l_2 = length in feet of lines L_1 and L_2, respectively.

Notes

(1) Since resistance is affected by temperature, the resistance of the looped lines in B should be measured immediately before and after the Varley measurement. Take the average of the two Bridge measurements for L.

(2) The resistance of the fault itself is not being measured. This can be done, if desired, by an insulation resistance test, page 73.

(3) If the fault be of very high resistance, the reduction of current through the Varley connection will reduce the sensitivity and decrease the degree of accuracy to which the location of the fault can be effected. Broadly speaking, a fault resistance of 10,000 ohms may reduce the sensitivity to about one-half of what it would be on a dead ground.

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